

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

18
NOV.

IND.

ONLY MIGHTY MARVEL
WOULD DARE TO ATTEMPT
SUCH A TALE!

"THE END OF SPIDER-MAN!"

THE STORY YOU NEVER
EXPECTED TO READ!!

WHY DOES SPIDEY CRINGE IN
HELPLESS FEAR AS THE EVIL
SANDMAN
STALKS THE CITY'S STREETS?
BE PREPARED FOR COUNTLESS
*
SURPRISES IN THIS GREAT,
DRAMATIC, OFF-BEAT ISSUE!





"The END of SPIDER-MAN!"

SPECIAL
EXTRA

SPIDER-MAN A COWARD! FLEES IN TERROR!

By J. Jonah Jameson,
Publisher

FORGET EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER
READ ABOUT SPIDEY BEFORE!!
FORGET EVERY SUPER-HERO
THRILLER YOU'VE EVER SEEN!!
THROW AWAY ALL YOUR PRE-
CONCEIVED IDEAS OF WHAT A
FULL LENGTH MAGAZINE DRAMA
SHOULD BE LIKE!
THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT!
THIS ONE IS A SENSATION!
THIS ONE IS JUST FOR YOU!

NO ONE WILL EVER LAUGH
AT J. JONAH JAMESON AGAIN!
I TOLD THEM SPIDER-MAN
WAS A HEEL... A COWARDLY
QUITTER... AND NOW, SINCE
HE RAN AWAY FROM THE
GREEN GOBLIN*, THE WORLD
KNOWS I'M RIGHT!

* SEE SPIDER-MAN #17
"THE RETURN OF THE
GREEN GOBLIN!"...EDITOR.

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
AUTHOR OF "THE FANTASTIC FOUR"

ILLUSTRATED BY:
STEVE DITKO
ILLUSTRATOR OF "DR. STRANGE"

LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN
LETTERER OF..."PATSY WALKER"?!?

X-797

A SHORT TIME AGO, SPIDER-MAN SEEMED TO SUFFER HIS GREATEST DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE MYSTERIOUS **GREEN GOBLIN**! AND NOW, LET US OBSERVE THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS FAMILIAR CHARACTERS TO THAT UNEXPECTED OCCURRENCE ...

I'M THE **FIRST** ONE TO MAKE SPIDER-MAN RUN AWAY LIKE A WHIPPED DOG! NOW, AT LAST, THE **GREEN GOBLIN** WILL BE WORLD-FAMOUS!



IF ONLY **I** COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO DEFEAT HIM! THE VICTORY **SHOULD** HAVE BELONGED TO **DOCTOR OCTOPUS**!



EVEN THOUGH HE **LOST**, SPIDER-MAN IS STILL AT LARGE! THAT MEANS **KRAVEN THE HUNTER** MIGHT **STILL** BE ABLE TO TRACK HIM DOWN!



HOW COULD THE **GREEN GOBLIN** BEAT HIM WHEN **I, THE VULTURE**, COULDN'T ?? I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' SO **GLOOMY** ABOUT, **HOTHEAD**? I THOUGHT THAT **WEBHEAD** WAS NUMBER ONE ON YOUR **HATE PARADE**!

SURE, BEN, WE WERE ALWAYS FEUDIN'... BUT I STILL HAD A LOT OF **RESPECT** FOR **SPIDEY**! IF I HADN'T SEEN HIM RUN AWAY WITH MY OWN EYES...!



TOO BAD ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! IT SORT OF PUTS **ALL** COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTERS IN A BAD LIGHT!



IT APPEARS HIS COURAGE DID NOT MATCH HIS POWER!



WASPS AND **SPIDERS** ARE NATURAL ENEMIES... SO I CAN'T HONESTLY SAY I'M SORRY FOR HIM!

WHEN LAST I MET SPIDER-MAN, MY INSTINCTS TOLD ME HE WAS A VALIANT FIGHTER! HOW COULD THE SUPER-SHARP SENSES OF **DAREDEVIL** HAVE BEEN SO WRONG?



EVEN WITH THE AVERAGE MAN IN THE STREET, SPIDER-MAN'S BATTLE AGAINST THE **GREEN GOBLIN** IS THE NUMBER ONE TOPIC ...

I **STILL** DON'T SEE WHY HE RAN AWAY! IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE **SPIDEY** WAS **WINNING**!

J. JONAH JAMESON WAS **RIGHT** ALL THE TIME! SPIDER-MAN WAS JUST A **COWARD**... LIKE **ALL** **BULLIES**!

APPARENTLY **JAMESON** WAS **SMARTER** THAN WE **THOUGHT**!



AND, THE **GLOATING** PUBLISHER OF THE **DAILY BUGLE** MISSES NO TRICKS IN PUBLICIZING HIS TRIUMPH ...

NOW THAT THE DECENT PEOPLE OF OUR CITY HAVE GOTTEN WISE TO SPIDER-MAN, HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR WEEKS! AT LAST WE'RE **RID** OF THAT MASKED MENACE!

AND REMEMBER, THE **DAILY BUGLE** WAS THE **FIRST** TO EXPOSE HIM AS A DANGEROUS FRAUD!



YES, ALMOST THE ENTIRE CIVILIZED WORLD WONDERS WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! BUT, HOW SURPRISED THEY ALL WOULD BE IF THEY COULD SEE HIM AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BED, AUNT MAY! THE DOCTOR SAID YOU NEED LOTS OF REST AFTER YOUR OPERATION!

BUT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU EAT A GOOD BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU GO TO SCHOOL, PETER!

GOSH, IF ONLY YOU'D STOP WORRYING ABOUT ME SO! ANYWAY, YOU KNOW MRS. WATKINS WILL BE HERE TO HELP YOU OUT AND... OH! HERE SHE IS NOW!

OFF TO SCHOOL WITH YOU NOW, PETER! I'LL DO THE DISHES! WELL, DON'T YOU LOOK IMPROVED, MAY!

THANK YOU, ANNA! IT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO COME OVER!

NOW REMEMBER... TAKE YOUR MEDICINE EVERY FOUR HOURS... HAVE A NAP AT NOON, LIKE THE DOCTOR SAID... AND DON'T TIRE YOURSELF OUT!

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, DEAR! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF... REMEMBER, YOU'RE STILL A GROWING BOY!

LATER, AT SCHOOL... I CAN'T TELL AUNT MAY, BUT WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF MONEY! AND SHE STILL NEEDS SO MUCH MEDICINE... I CAN'T FAIL HER AFTER EVERYTHING SHE'S DONE FOR ME! THE DOCTOR DOESN'T WANT HER TO KNOW HOW ILL SHE REALLY IS!

THEN AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY... I NEVER SAW PUNY PARKER RUN SO FAST!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE AUNT MAY'S ALL RIGHT!

HE PROBABLY HEARD OF A BIG SALE ON TEXT-BOOKS SOMEWHERE!

I'M HOME, AUNT MAY!! ARE YOU FEELING ALL RI... OH! YOU'RE STILL HERE, MRS. WATKINS?!

YES, PETER! YOUR AUNT FELT A BIT DIZZY, SO I THOUGHT I'D STAY A WHILE LONGER!

NOW DON'T WORRY THE BOY, ANNA! I'M PERFECTLY FINE! BUT YOU LOOK A BIT PEAKED TO ME, DEAR! HAVE YOU BEEN STUDYING TOO HARD?

LATER, AFTER MRS. WATKINS HAS GONE HOME...

WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF MEDICINE AGAIN! I'VE JUST GOT TO GET SOME MONEY SOMEWHERE!

OKAY, AUNT MAY, TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE AND THEN YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO BED!

VERY WELL, PETER! I AM FEELING RATHER TIRED! YOU MAY SHUT THE T.V. OFF NOW!

YES, *THAT'S* WHY SPIDER-MAN HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM LATELY! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK AFTER A SICK AUNT WHO IS RECOVERING FROM A SERIOUS OPERATION, AND STILL SPEND TIME SWINGING THROUGH THE CITY IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE! BUT, THERE ARE STILL *SOME* WHO HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN SPIDEY...

BOY! OLD J. JONAH REALLY IS FLYING THESE DAYS!

ily Bugle
READ
J. JONAH JAMESON'S EXPOSE OF "THE SPIDER-MAN MYTH!"

AND, PROBABLY THE LAST TRUE FAN THAT SPIDEY HAS LEFT IS *FLASH THOMPSON*, THE ARCH-RIVAL OF PETER PARKER...

I TELL YOU, IF SPIDEY RAN AWAY FROM THE GREEN GOBLIN, HE HAD A GOOD REASON!

SURE HE DID! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL COWARD!

SAY THAT AGAIN AND I'LL PASTE YOU ONE!

SKIP IT, FLASH! THAT WEB-HEAD ISN'T WORTH FIGHTIN' ABOUT!

JUST WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT HIM FROM NOW ON!

OH, HELLO, PETER! HOW IS YOUR AUNT?

A LITTLE BETTER, I GUESS, LIZ! BOY, FLASH SURE IS LOYAL TO SPIDER-MAN, ISN'T HE?

YES! HE SEEMS TO LIKE *HIM* AS MUCH AS HE *DISLIKES* YOU!

BY THE WAY, THERE'S A NEW PETER SELLERS MOVIE AT THE DRIVE-IN TONIGHT THAT I'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE!

REALLY? I'D LIKE TO SEE IT, TOO! BUT I, EH, HAVE SOMETHING TO DO LATER ON...

LIZ REALLY ISN'T A BAD KID, ALTHOUGH I PREFER BETTY BRANT... BUT I CAN'T THINK ABOUT *GIRLS* NOW! I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW TO EARN SOME MONEY *FAST*!

AND SO, AFTER SCHOOL, A DRAMATIC, COSTUMED FIGURE SWINGS DARINGLY TOWARDS A MIDTOWN OFFICE BUILDING...

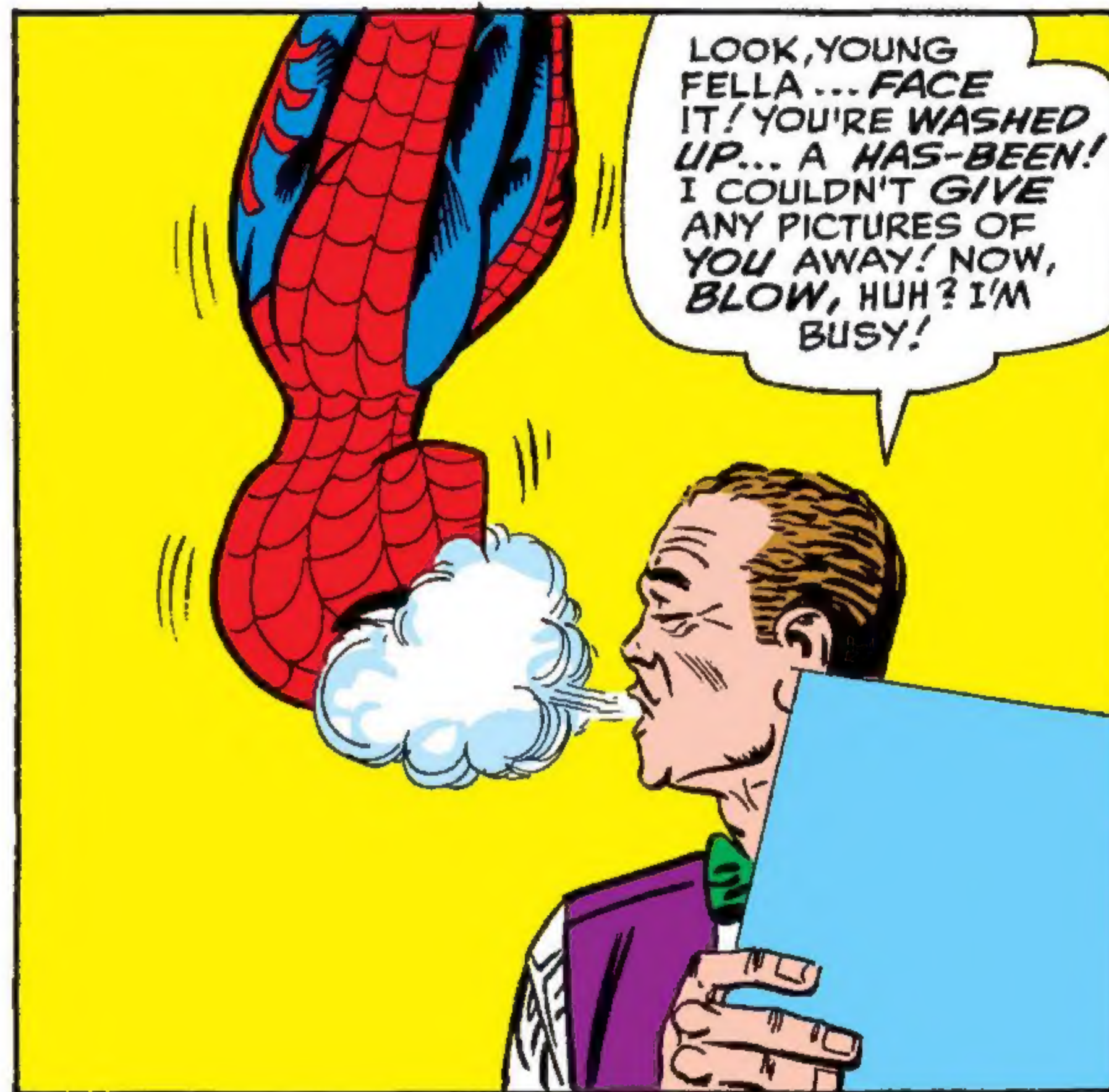
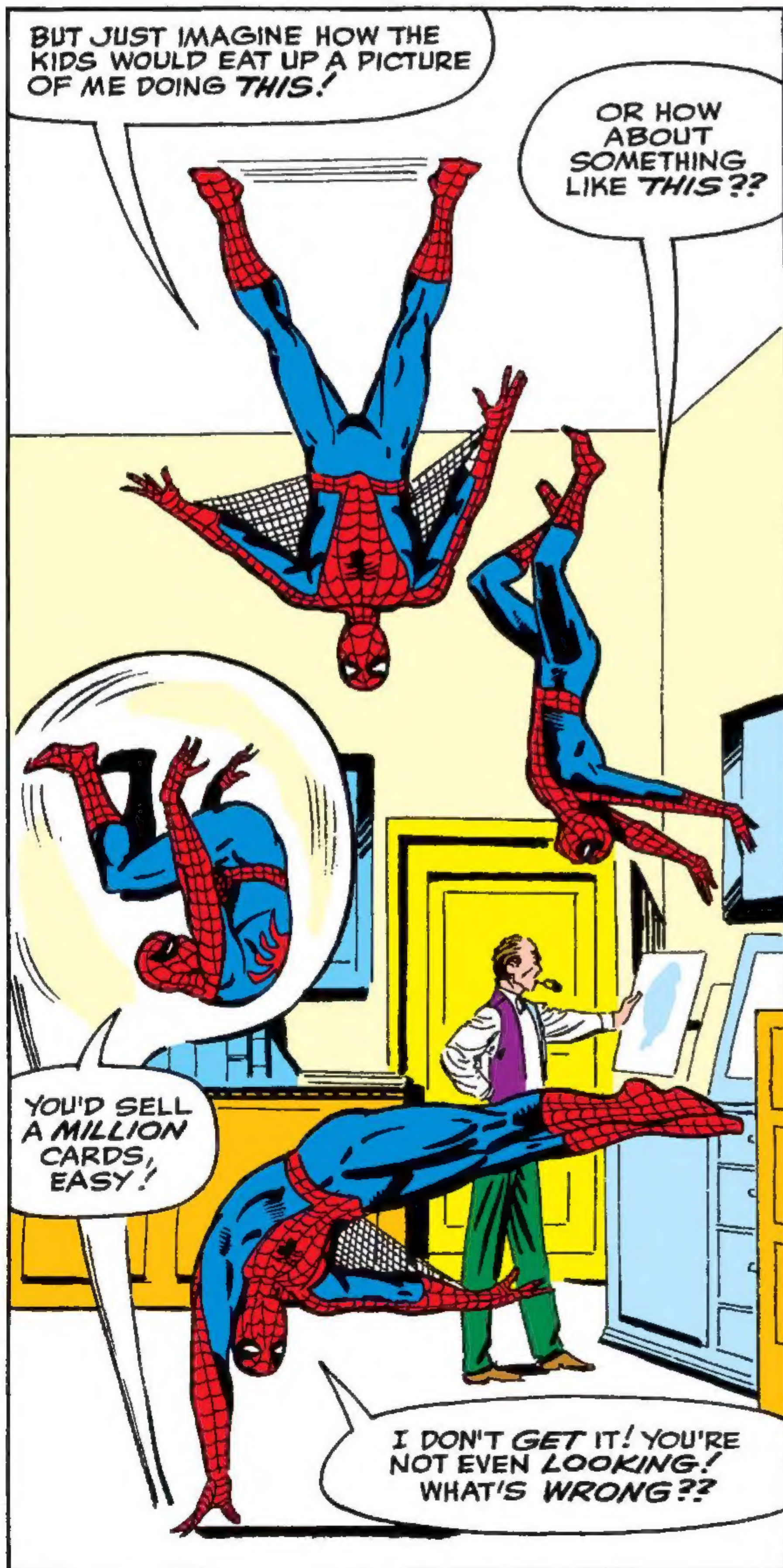
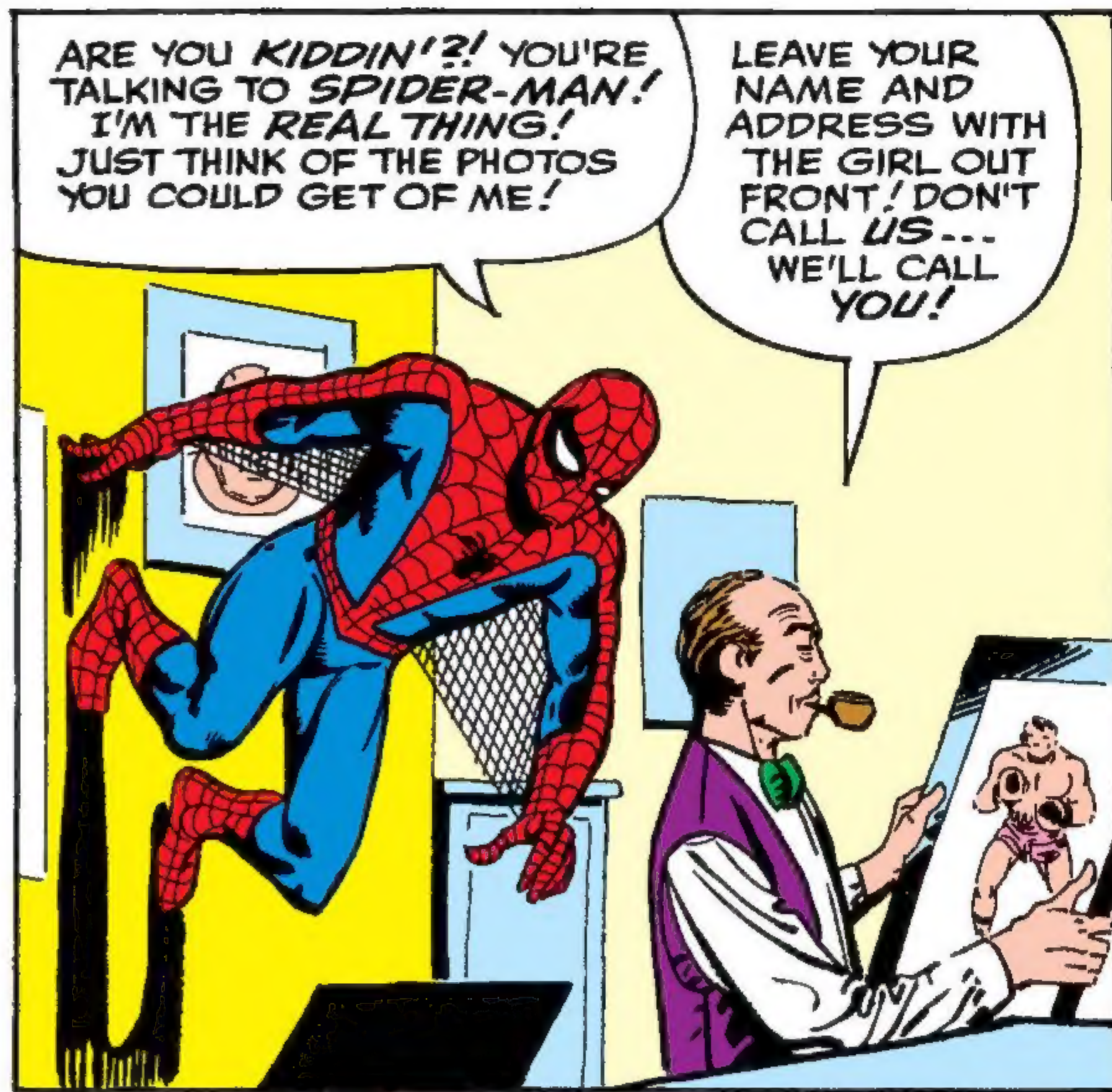
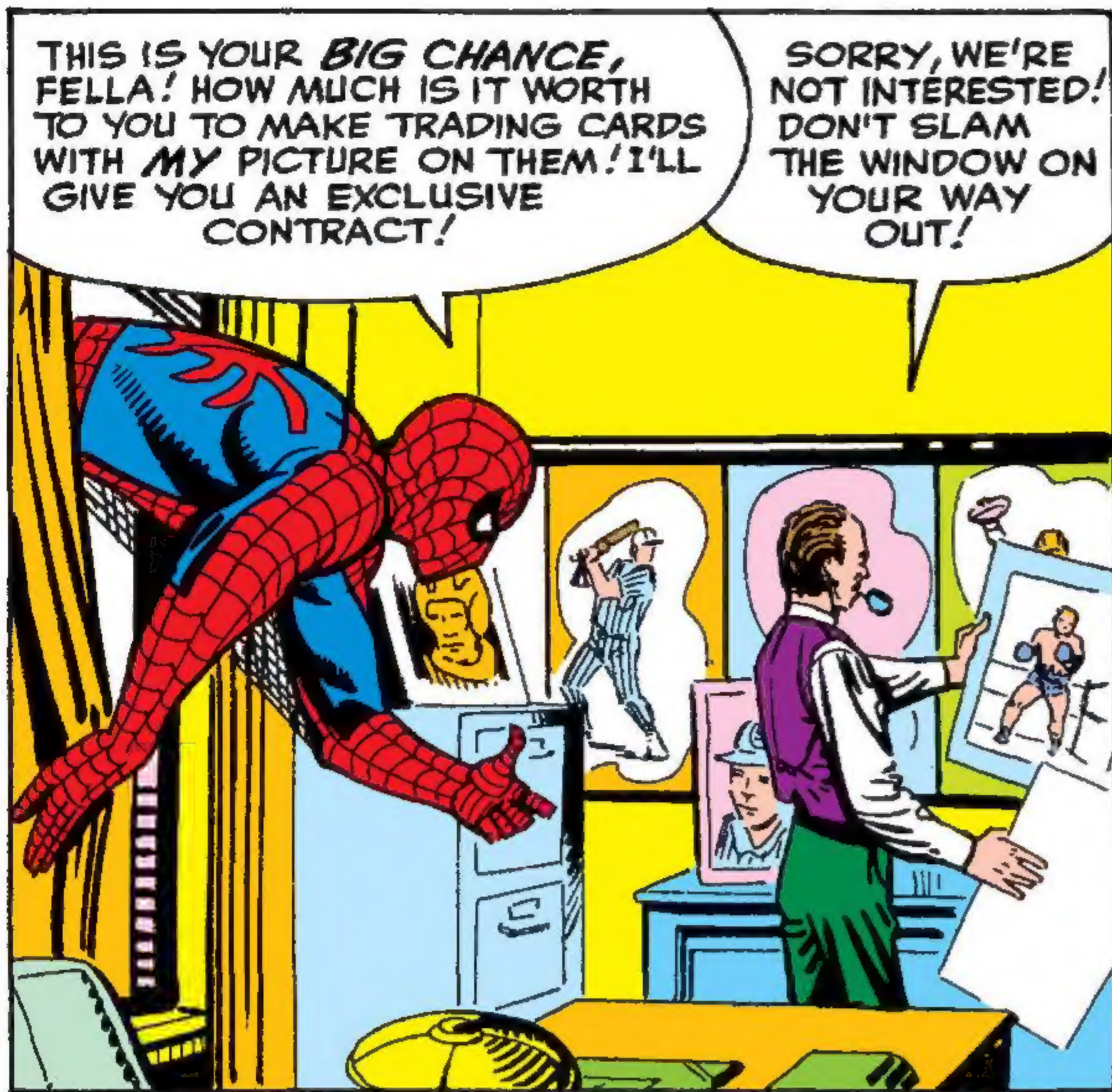
THIS IS THE PLACE!

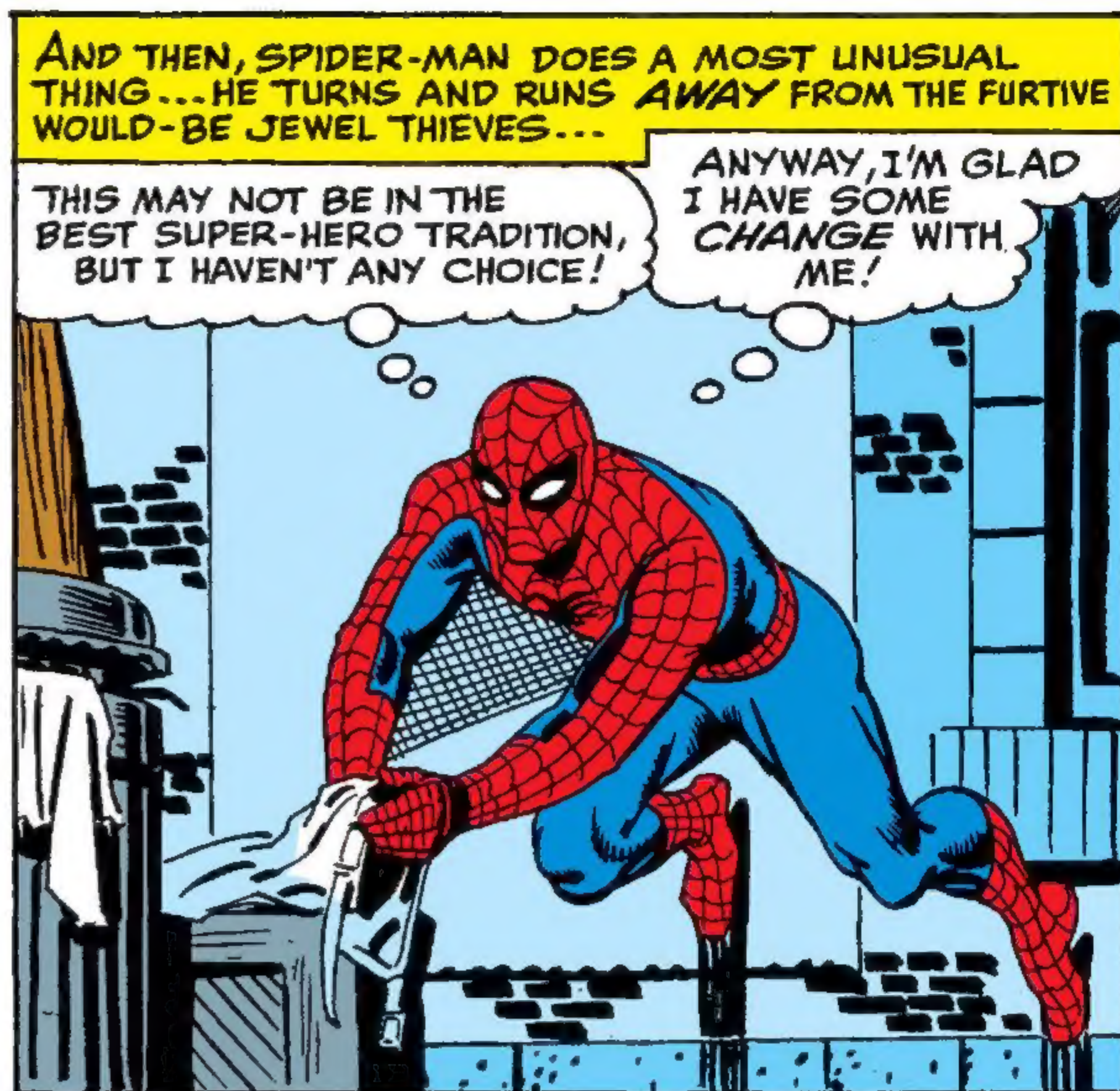
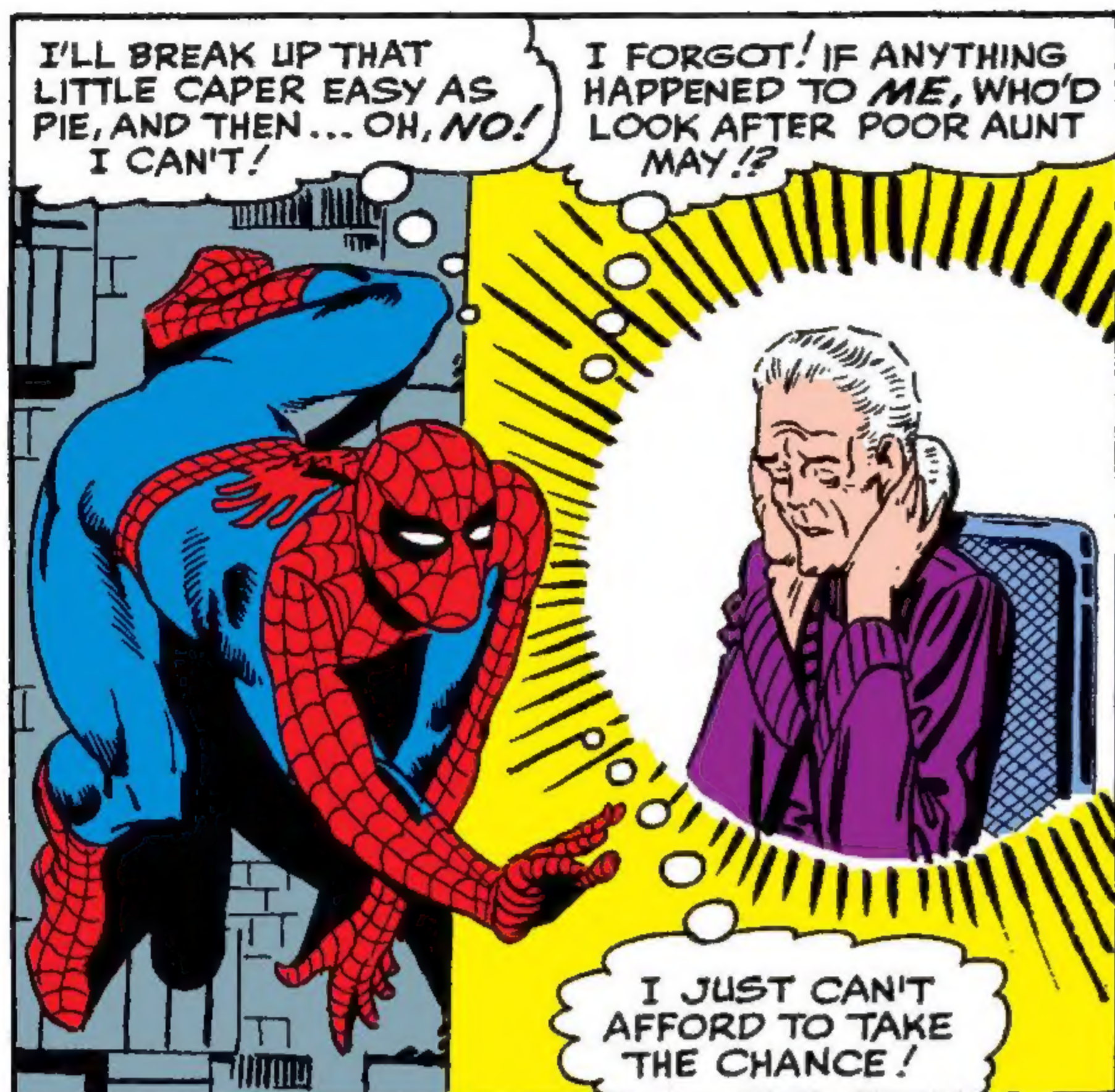
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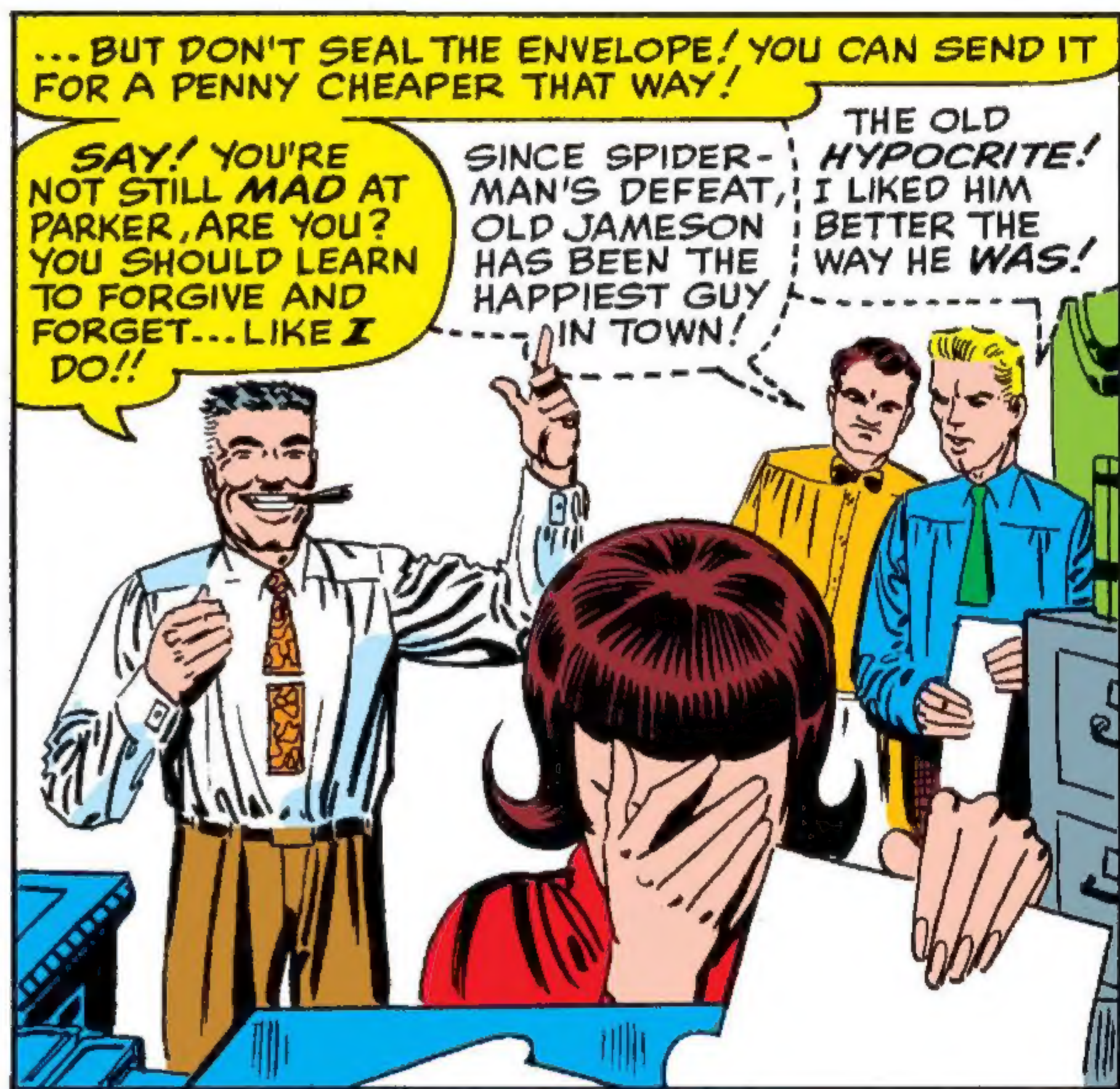
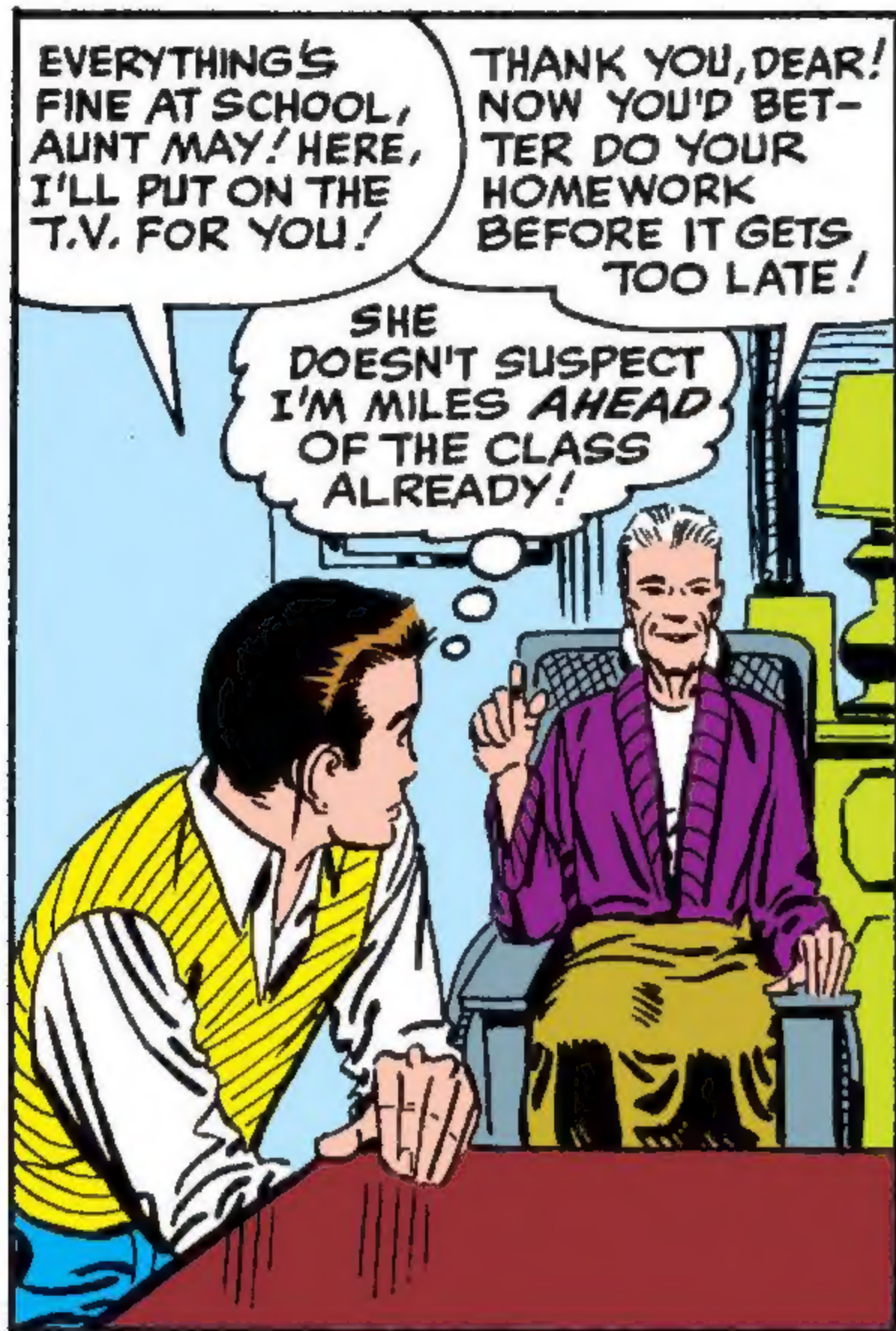
ARE *YOU* THE ONES WHO MAKE THOSE KIDS' TRADING CARDS WITH PICTURES OF SPORTS STARS AND ACTORS ON THEM??

YEAH, WHO WANTS TO KNOW?

OH... SPIDER-MAN!







AND, AS THE LONG HOURS TICK BY...

SHE'S RESTING NOW! POOR AUNT MAY... SHE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR ME! BROUGHT ME UP LIKE I WAS HER OWN SON! I CAN'T FAIL HER NOW WHEN SHE NEEDS ME! I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF HER TILL SHE'S WELL AGAIN!

BUT IT GETS SO LONELY SOMETIMES! IF ONLY BETTY WEREN'T MAD AT ME! I'LL CALL HER AGAIN...

NO ANSWER! CAN SHE BE OUT WITH ANOTHER FELLA ?? OR IS SHE NOT ANSWERING BECAUSE SHE SUSPECTS IT'S ME ??

ALTHOUGH HE CANNOT BE SURE OF IT, PETER'S SECOND GUESS IS THE CORRECT ONE ...

IT MUST BE PETE! I KNOW IT! BUT I DON'T TRUST MYSELF TO SPEAK TO HIM!

I MIGHT LISTEN TO MY HEART... AND MAKE UP WITH HIM, AS I'M LONGING TO! BUT I MUSTN'T! I SIMPLY COULDN'T BEAR TO BE HURT AGAIN!

THEN, AS THE DEJECTED TEEN-AGER SITS MOROSELY IN HIS LONELY ROOM, HIS THOUGHTS BEGIN TO WANDER ... BACK TO THE RECENT PAST ...

I WONDER HOW BETTY WOULD FEEL IF SHE KNEW I WAS SPIDER-MAN! I'M THE ONE WHO'S RISKED HIS LIFE SO OFTEN TO SAVE HER...

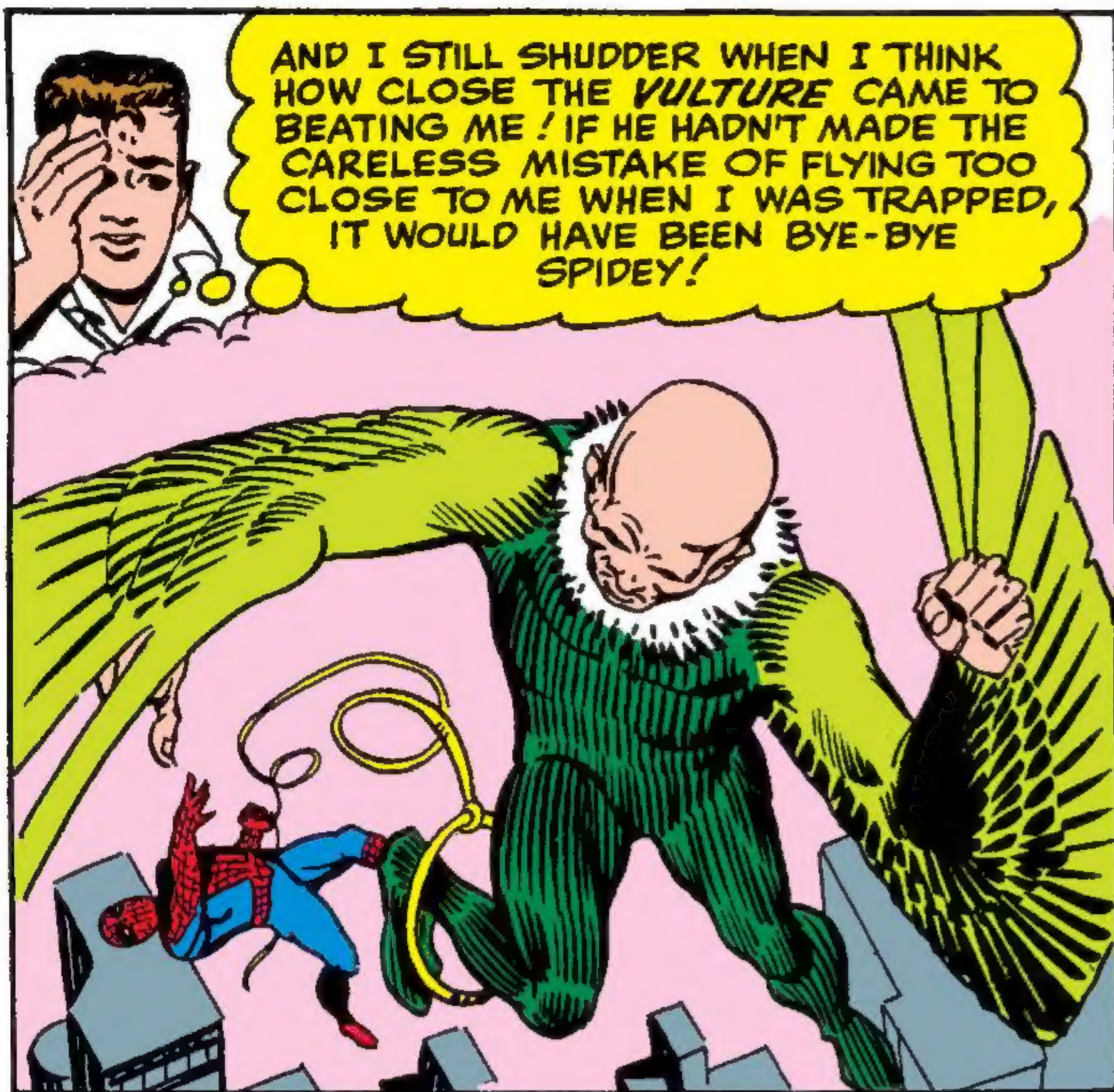
IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT I DEFIED SOME OF MY MOST DANGEROUS ENEMIES IN ORDER TO RESCUE BETTY AND AUNT MAY! I REMEMBER HOW THE SANDMAN ALMOST BEAT ME ... HE MIGHT HAVE, IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO HOLD MY BREATH LONGER THAN HE! *

I CAN OUT-LAST HIM IN THIS AIRLESS ROOM BECAUSE OF MY EXTRA-STRONG LUNGS!

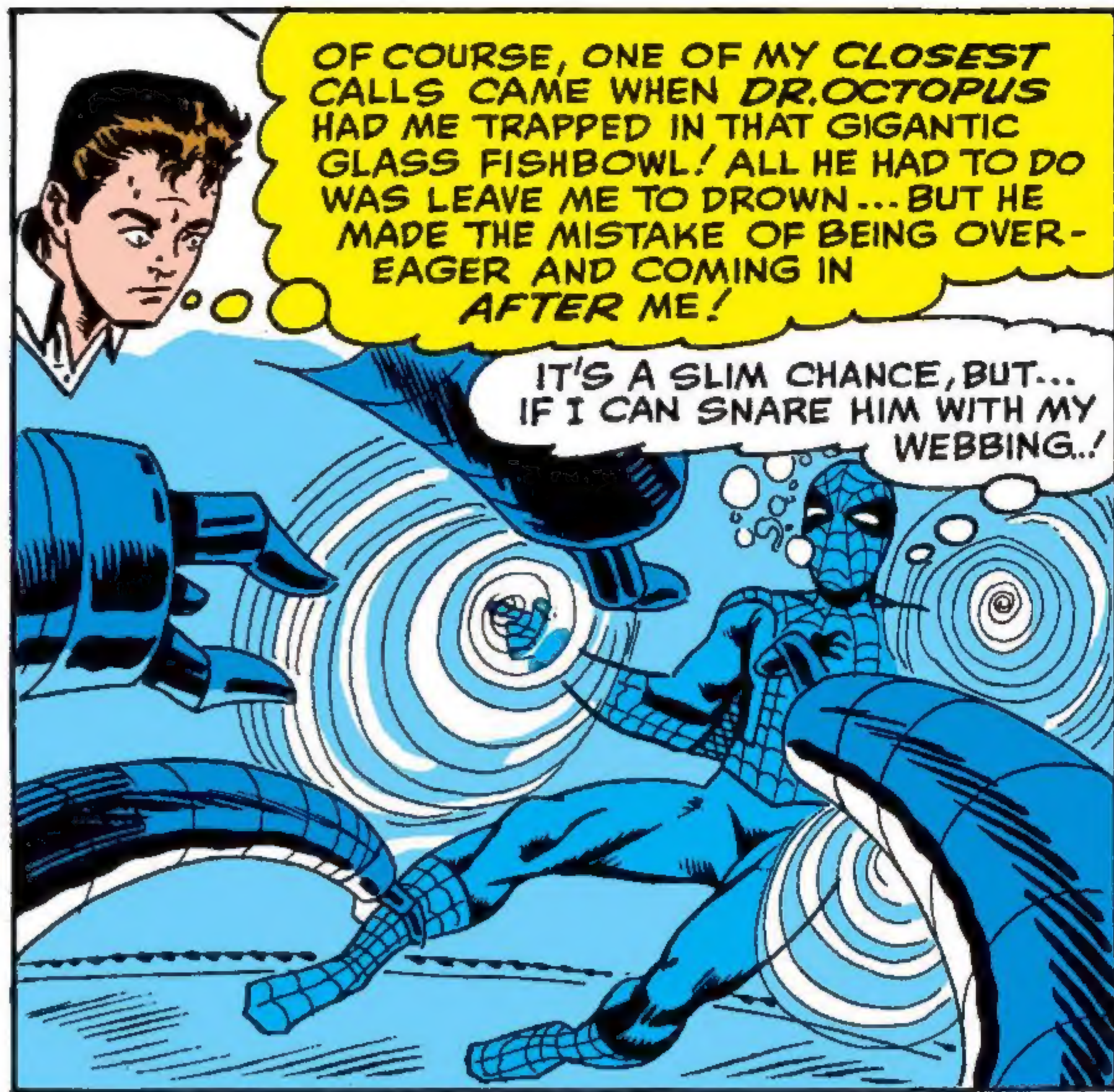
* SEE SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1...EDITOR.

THEN, THERE WAS THE TIME KRAVEN THE HUNTER HAD ME TRAPPED! IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO OUT-RUN HIM, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED! HE SURE WAS A POWERFUL ENEMY!

SPIDER-MAN, IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON YOU ...!



AND I STILL SHUDDER WHEN I THINK HOW CLOSE THE **VULTURE** CAME TO BEATING ME! IF HE HADN'T MADE THE CARELESS MISTAKE OF FLYING TOO CLOSE TO ME WHEN I WAS TRAPPED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BYE-BYE SPIDEY!



OF COURSE, ONE OF MY CLOSEST CALLS CAME WHEN **DR. OCTOPUS** HAD ME TRAPPED IN THAT GIGANTIC GLASS FISHBOWL! ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS LEAVE ME TO DROWN... BUT HE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BEING OVER-EAGER AND COMING IN AFTER ME!

IT'S A SLIM CHANCE, BUT... IF I CAN SNARE HIM WITH MY WEBBING..!



EDITOR'S NOTE: ALL THE SCENES YOU'VE WITNESSED ABOVE ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST **SPIDEY ANNUAL**!

EVERY ONE OF THEM, AS WELL AS **ELECTRO** AND **MYSTERIO** WILL HAVE **LEARNED** FROM THAT EXPERIENCE... AND THEY'LL BE **HARDER** TO BEAT IF WE SHOULD EVER MEET AGAIN!



BUT NOBODY REALIZES WHAT CLOSE CALLS I'VE HAD... HOW **DANGEROUS** MY CAREER HAS BEEN... LH-OH! WHAT'S THIS ON TV?

AND NOW, OUR LAST NEWS ITEM.. J. JONAH JAMESON, FAMOUS NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL FOR HIS CONTINUING EDITORIALS AGAINST THE DIS-CREDITED **SPIDER-MAN**!



THAT **DOES** IT! **BETTY BRANT** IS MAD AT **PETER PARKER**... AND THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS **SPIDER-MAN** IS A COWARD, BECAUSE I RAN OUT ON MY FIGHT WITH THE **GOBLIN**! THEY DON'T KNOW I DID IT BECAUSE AUNT MAY WAS ILL... AND NEEDED ME! AND I CAN NEVER **EXPLAIN**!



NEXT DAY, OUTSIDE OF THE **DAILY BUGLE** BUILDING...

IF ONLY I COULD MAKE UP WITH **BETTY**! OH, THERE SHE IS NOW!

BETTY! WAIT! I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!

PETER! IT'S TOO LATE! WE'VE NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS!



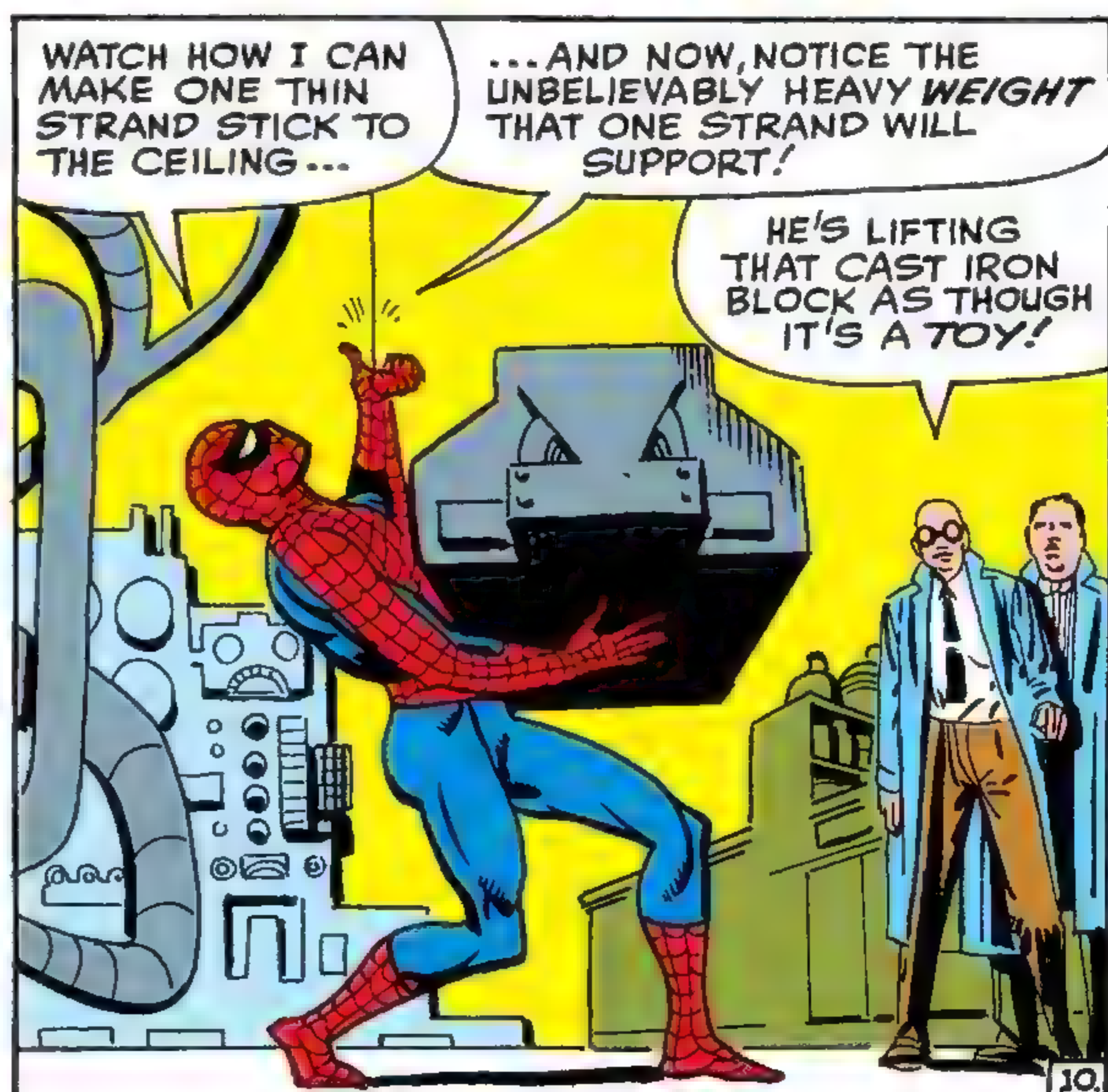
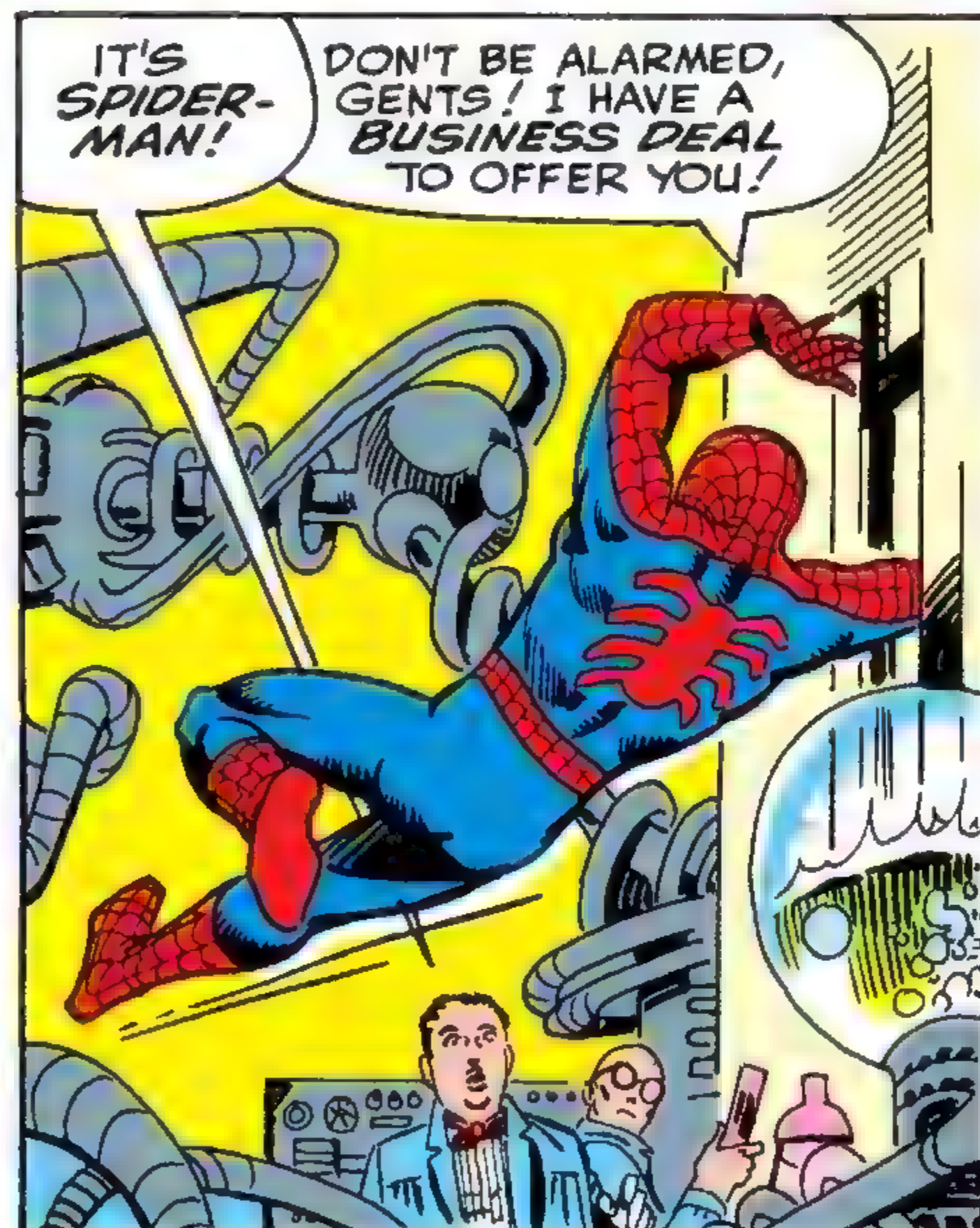
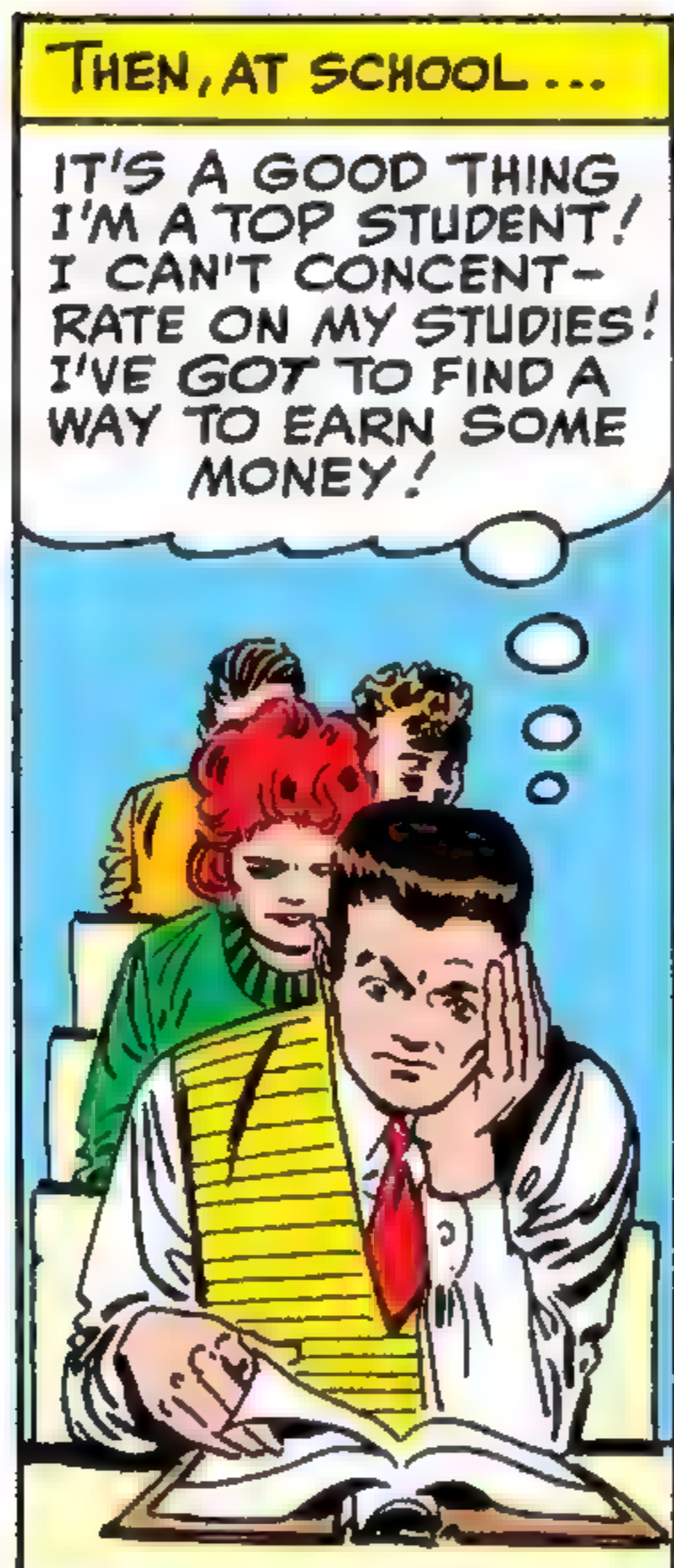
YOU **KNEW** I WANTED TO GO TO THAT CLUB MEETING WITH YOU... AND YOU TOLD ME YOU WEREN'T GOING! THEN I FOUND YOU THERE WITH **LIZ ALLAN**! NOTHING YOU CAN SAY CAN CHANGE **THAT**!!

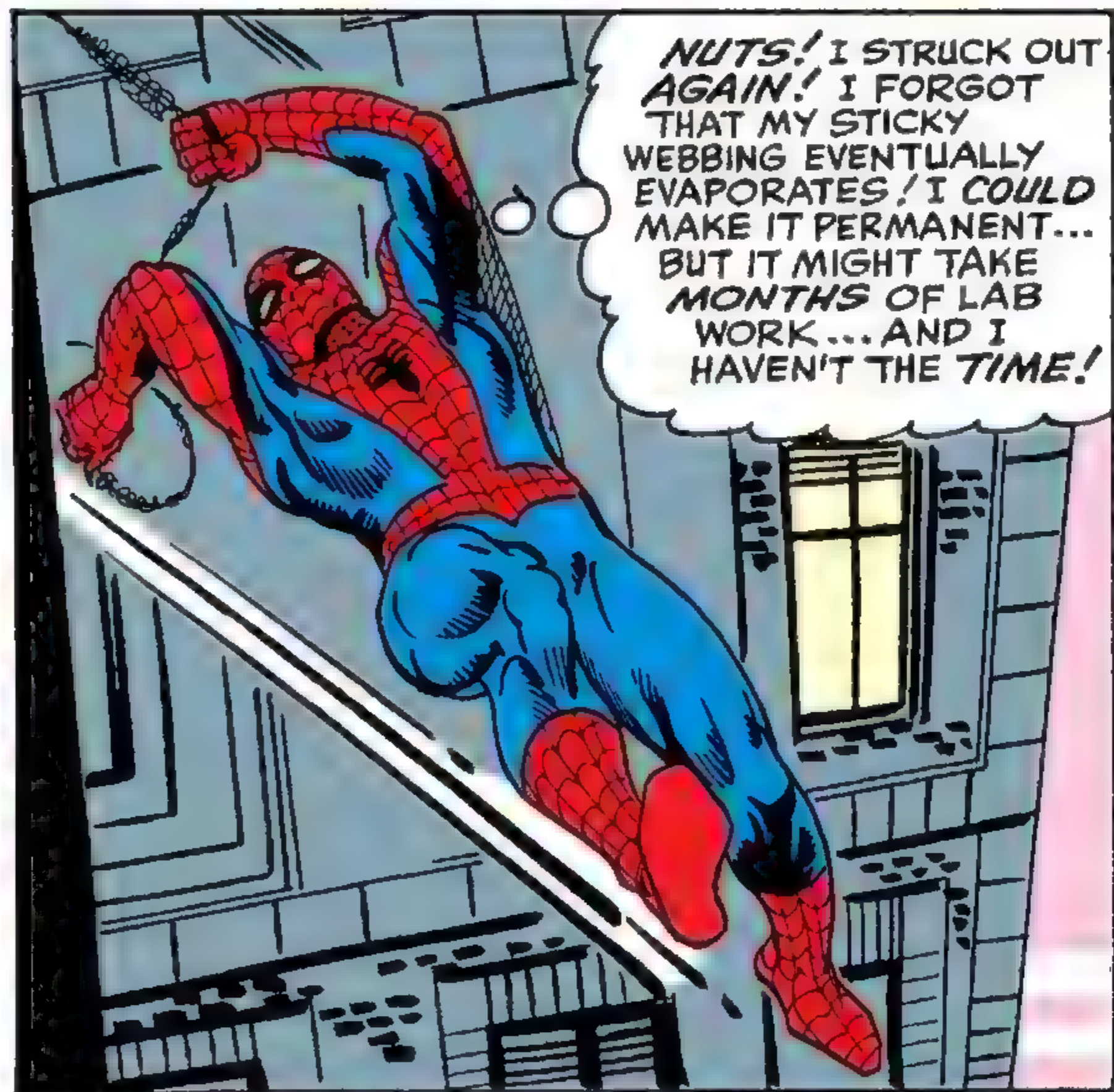
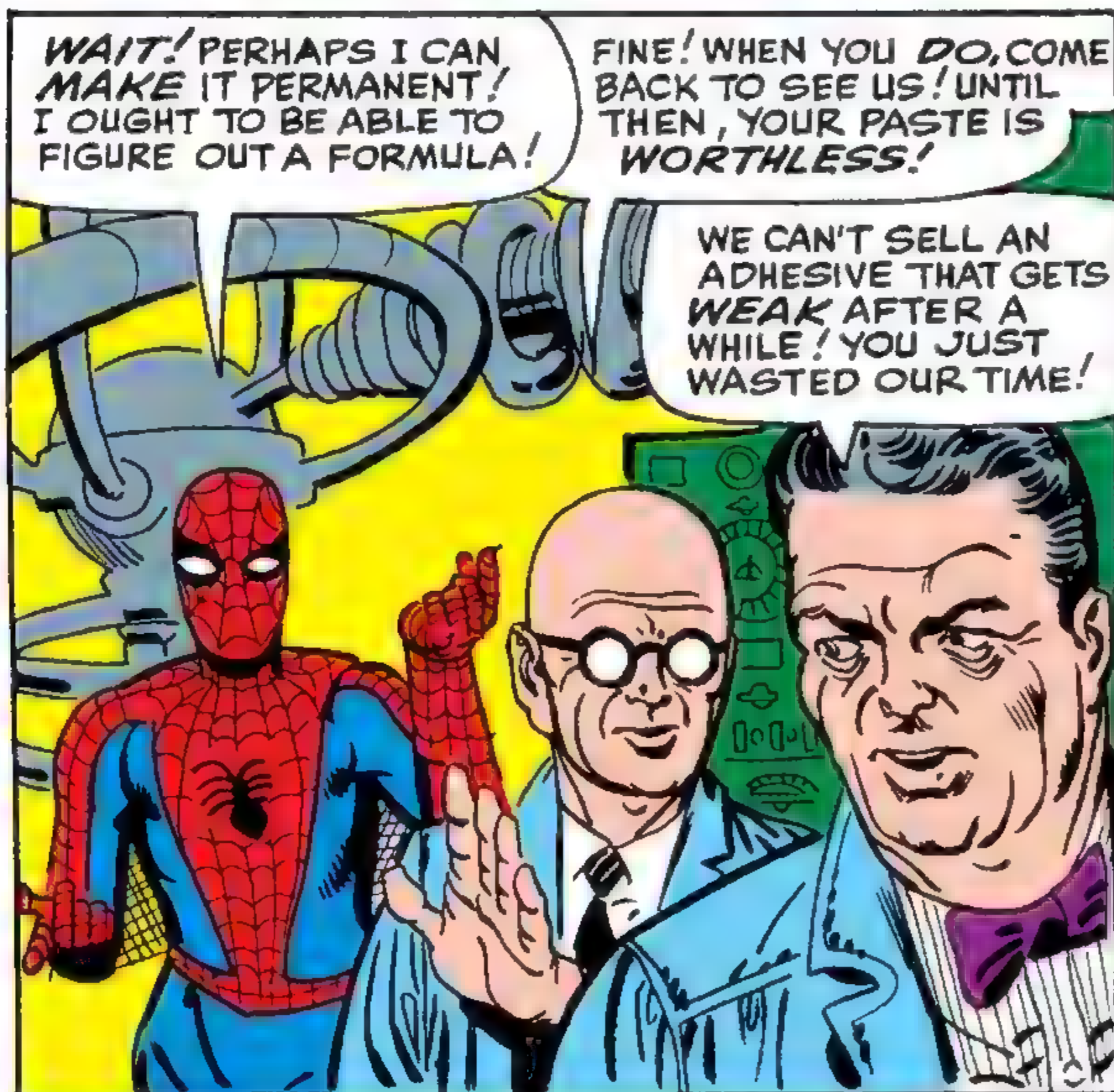
BUT, **BETTY**... WAIT! PLEASE..!

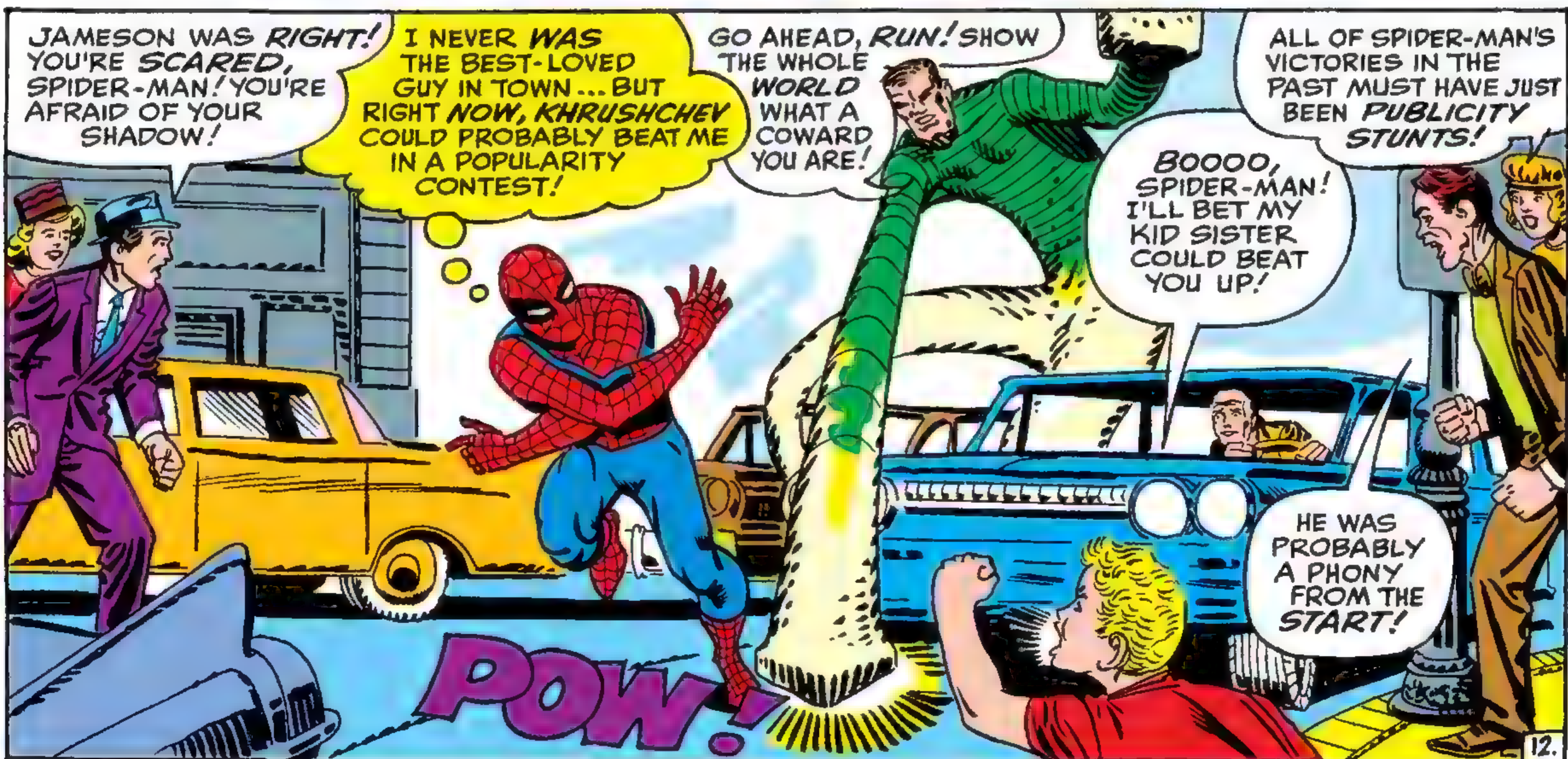
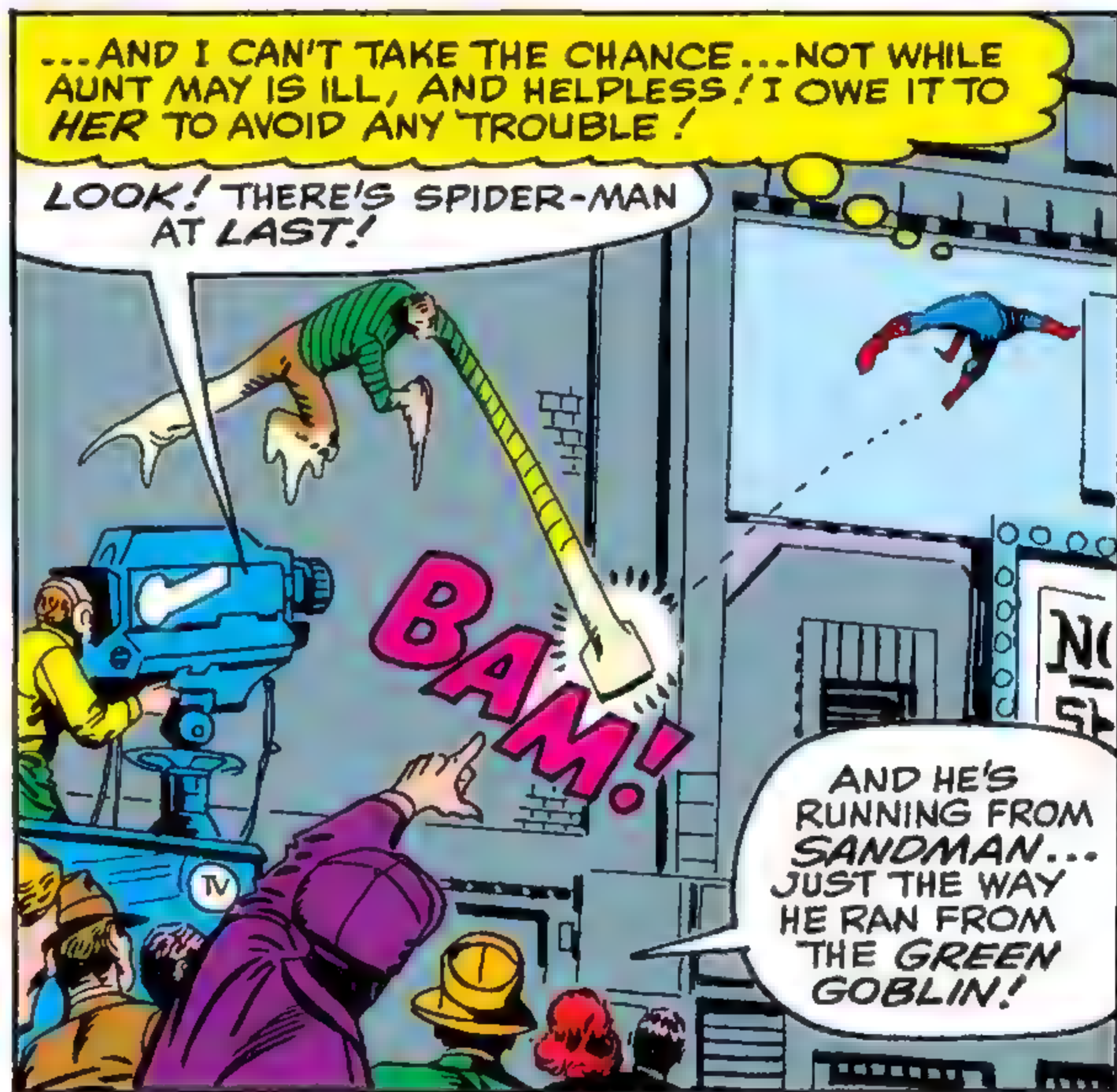
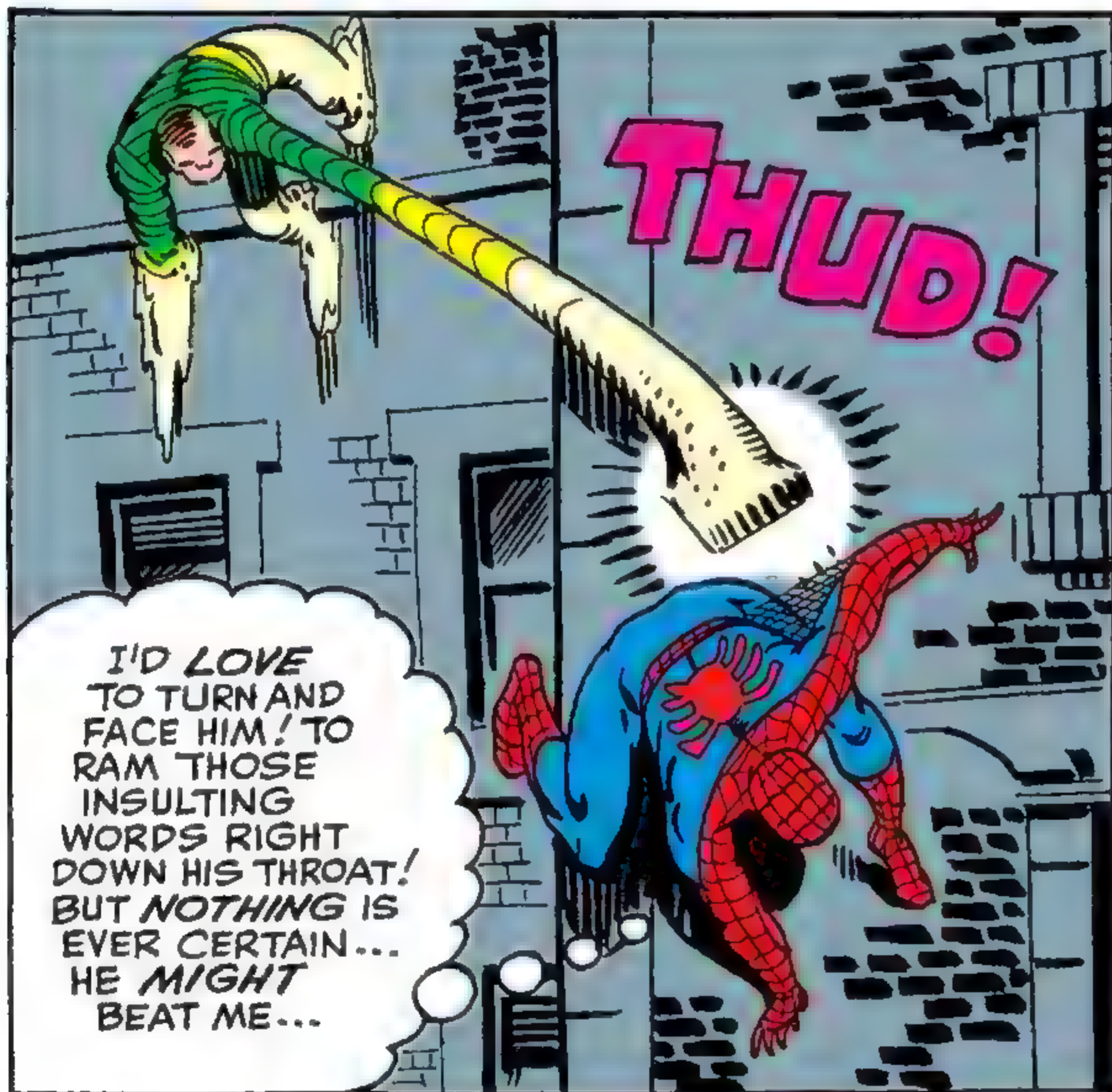


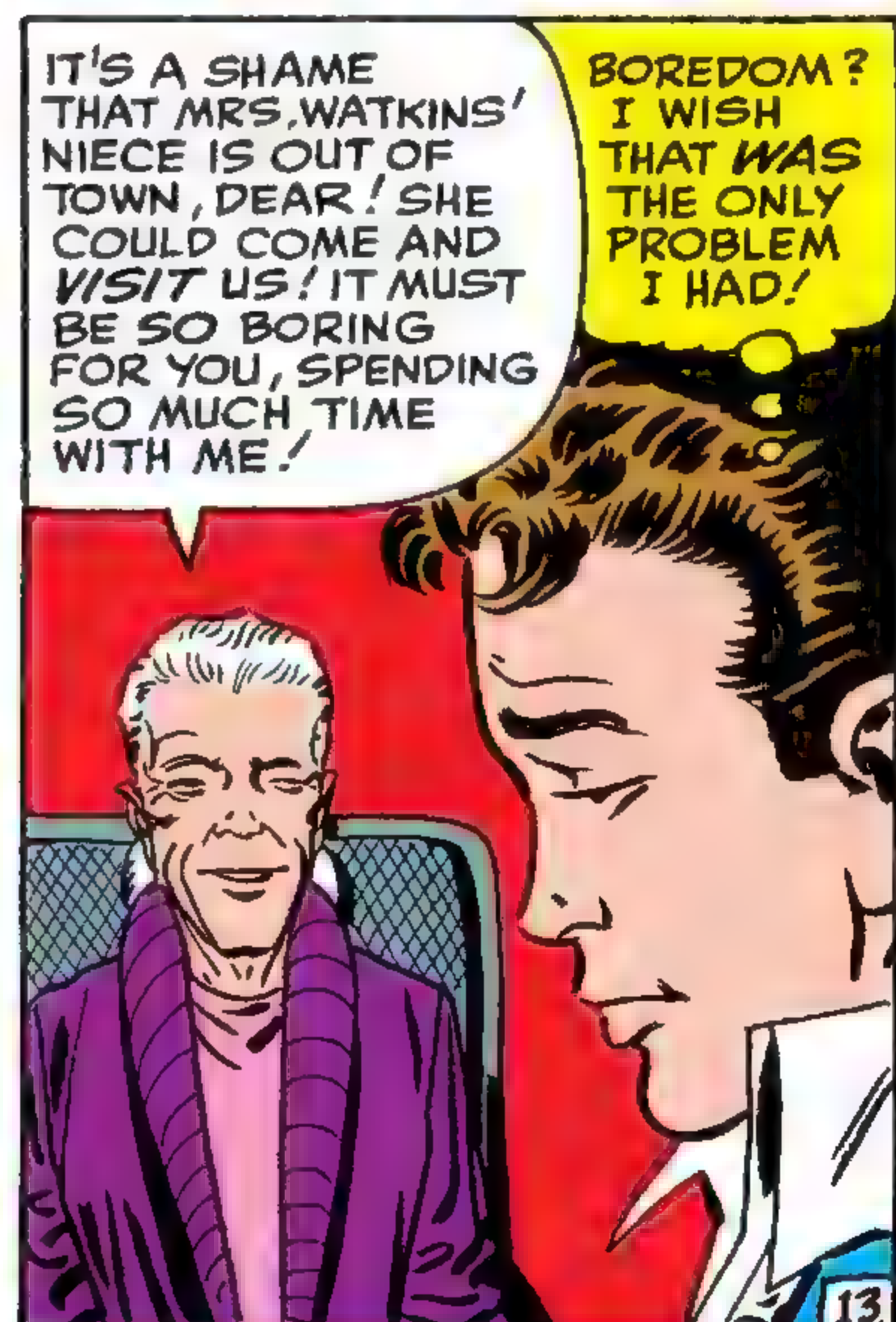
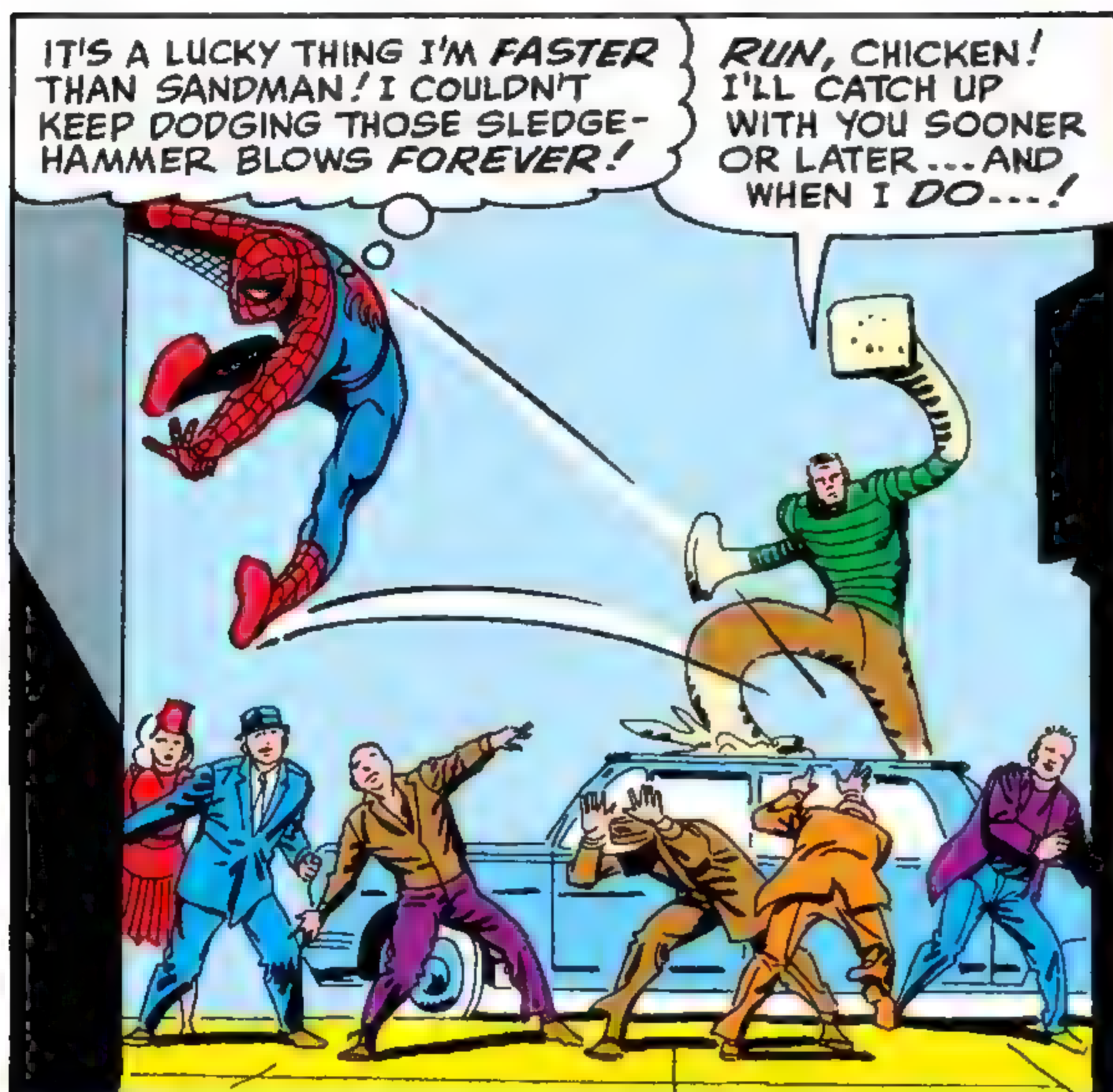
HOW CAN I TELL HER I **COULDN'T** TAKE HER... BECAUSE I HAD TO CHANGE TO **SPIDER-MAN**! AND I **DIDN'T** GO WITH **LIZ**... I JUST MET HER THERE!

WELL, WELL! HELLO THERE, **PARKER**!









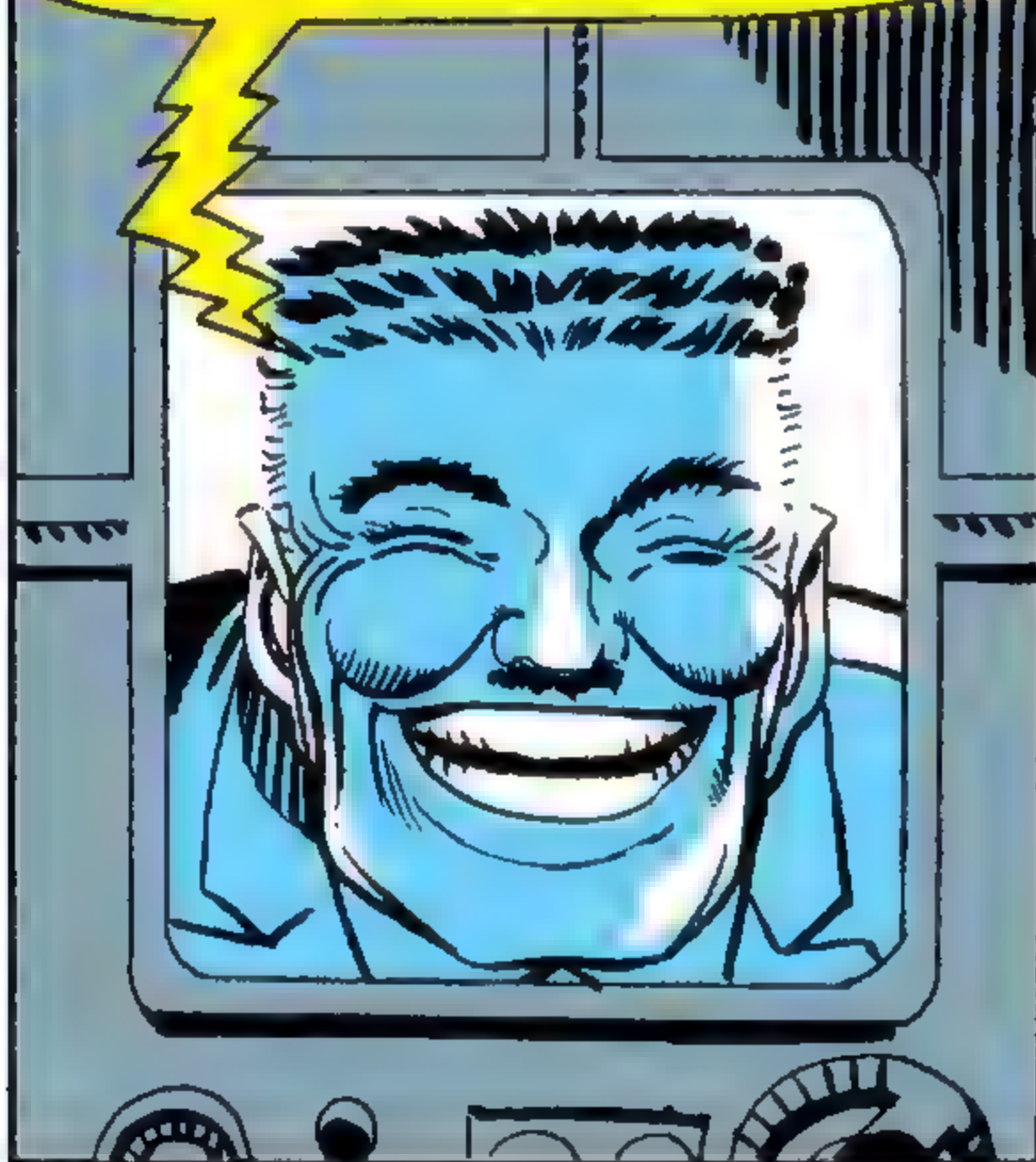
AND SO IT GOES! WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE, THINGS LOOK GLOOMIER AND GLOOMIER FOR THE WORRIED TEEN-AGER! AND THE NOW-JOVIAL J. JONAH JAMESON DOESN'T MISS A TRICK IN REMINDING THE PUBLIC OF HOW **RIGHT** HE WAS ABOUT SPIDER-MAN ...

AND NOW WE PRESENT A VIDEO-TAPE RE-RUN OF THIS AFTERNOON'S TOP NEWS STORY...THE FRIGHTENED FLIGHT OF SPIDER-MAN WHILE THE CITY WATCHED IN SHOCK

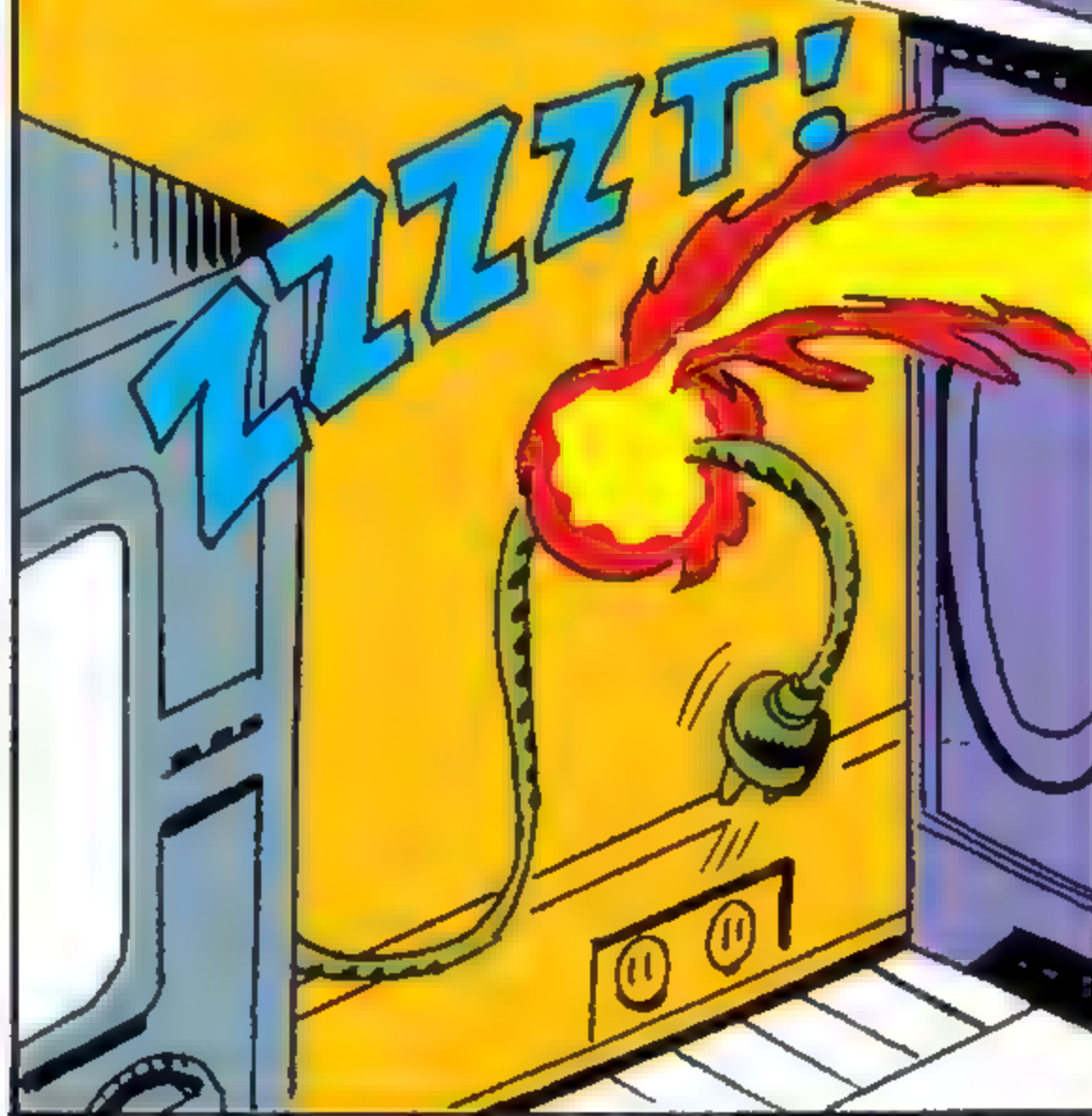
NOW THE WHOLE CITY...PROBABLY THE WHOLE **WORLD**, THINKS I'M NOTHING BUT A DISCREDITED COWARD! AND, AS LONG AS AUNT MAY REMAINS SERIOUSLY ILL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!



AS A SPECIAL ATTRACTION, LET'S WATCH THAT SAME SCENE IN **SLOW MOTION**, SPONSORED BY THE **DAILY BUGLE**... THE PAPER THAT TELLS THE **TRUTH**!

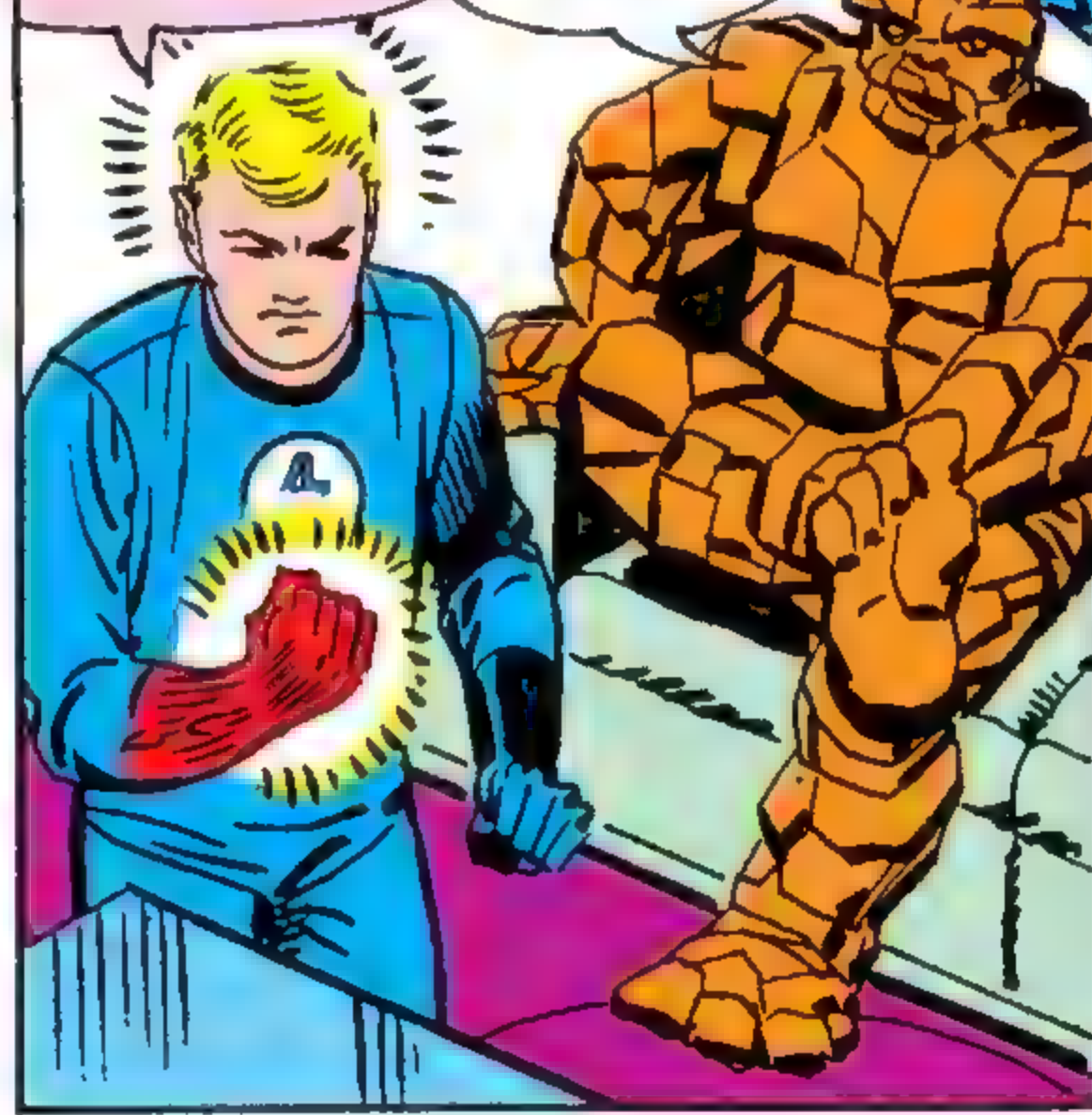


THAT'S IT! I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THAT GRINNING APE! I'D RATHER WATCH **DR. DOOM** READING NURSERY RHYMES TO THE KIDDIES!



I TELL YOU, BENJAMIN, THERE'S MORE TO ALL THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE! I JUST KNOW SPIDEY ISN'T A COWARD!

SURE! SURE! AND YOU STILL HANG UP YOUR WOOLY LITTLE STOCK-IN' FOR **SANTA CLAUS**, TOO!



KNOCK IT OFF, BIG BUDDY! I'M **SERIOUS**!

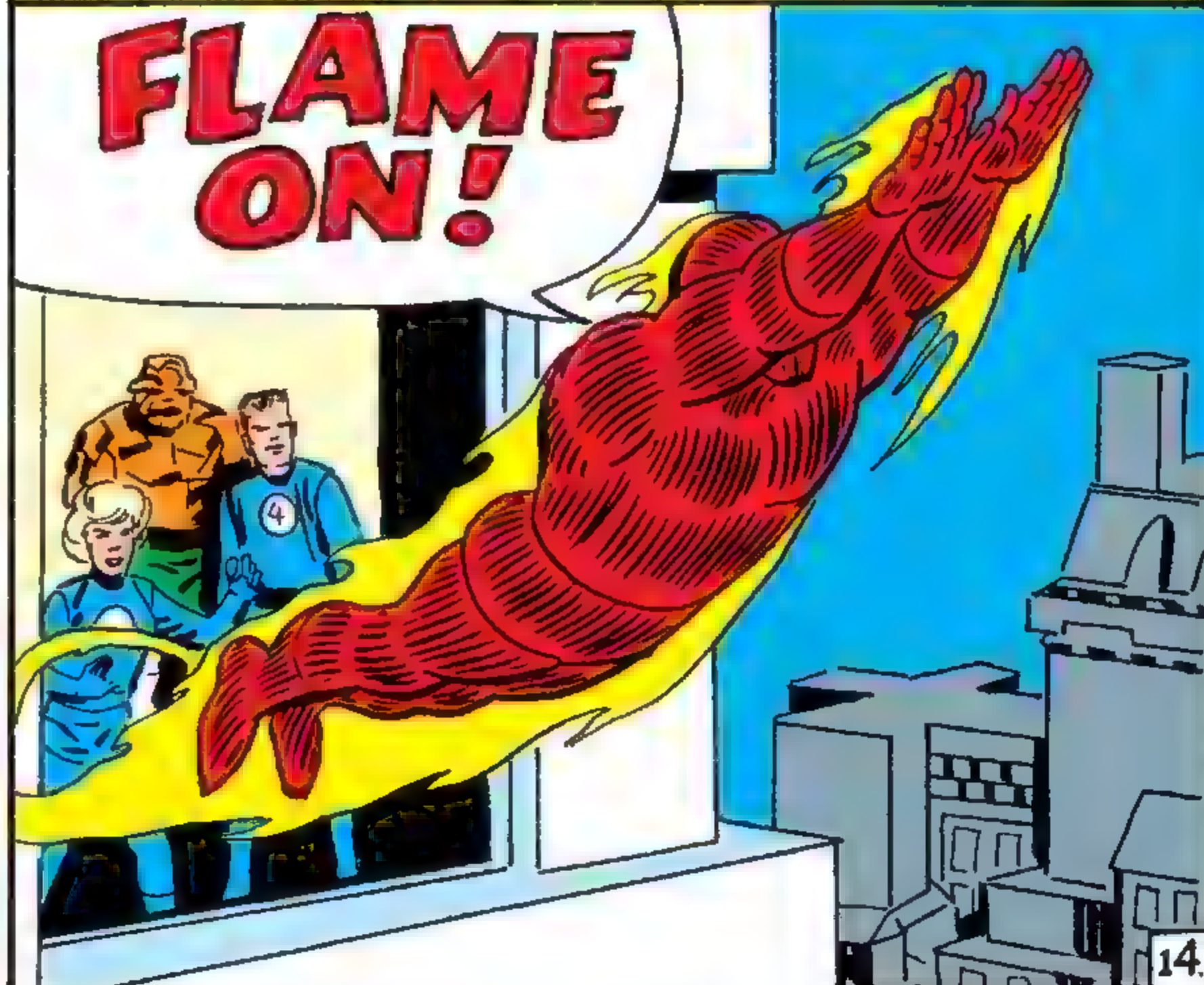
WHY WOULD A FELLA WHO'S RISKED HIS LIFE A DOZEN TIMES AGAINST THE TOUGHEST ODDS SUDDENLY TURN YELLOW?? REMEMBER...I'VE **SEEN** HIM IN ACTION... AND HE'S ONE OF THE **BEST**!

I'M INCLINED TO **AGREE** WITH YOU, JOHNNY! PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE THEIR BASIC NATURE WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE! AS FOR SPIDER-MAN, I WONDER...



AND THEN, ACTING ON A SUDDEN IMPULSE, THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE FABULOUS **FANTASTIC FOUR** UTTERS A DRAMATIC CRY AND BLAZES THROUGH THE WINDOW LIKE A CRIMSON METEOR...!

FLAME ON!





WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IMPETUOUS KID BROTHER OF MINE IS UP TO NOW?

IT'S HARD TO SAY, SUE! I'D GUESS HE'S GOING TO TRY TO FIND THE REASON FOR SPIDER-MAN'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR!

TEEN-AGERS! WHO CAN FIGGER 'EM OUT?



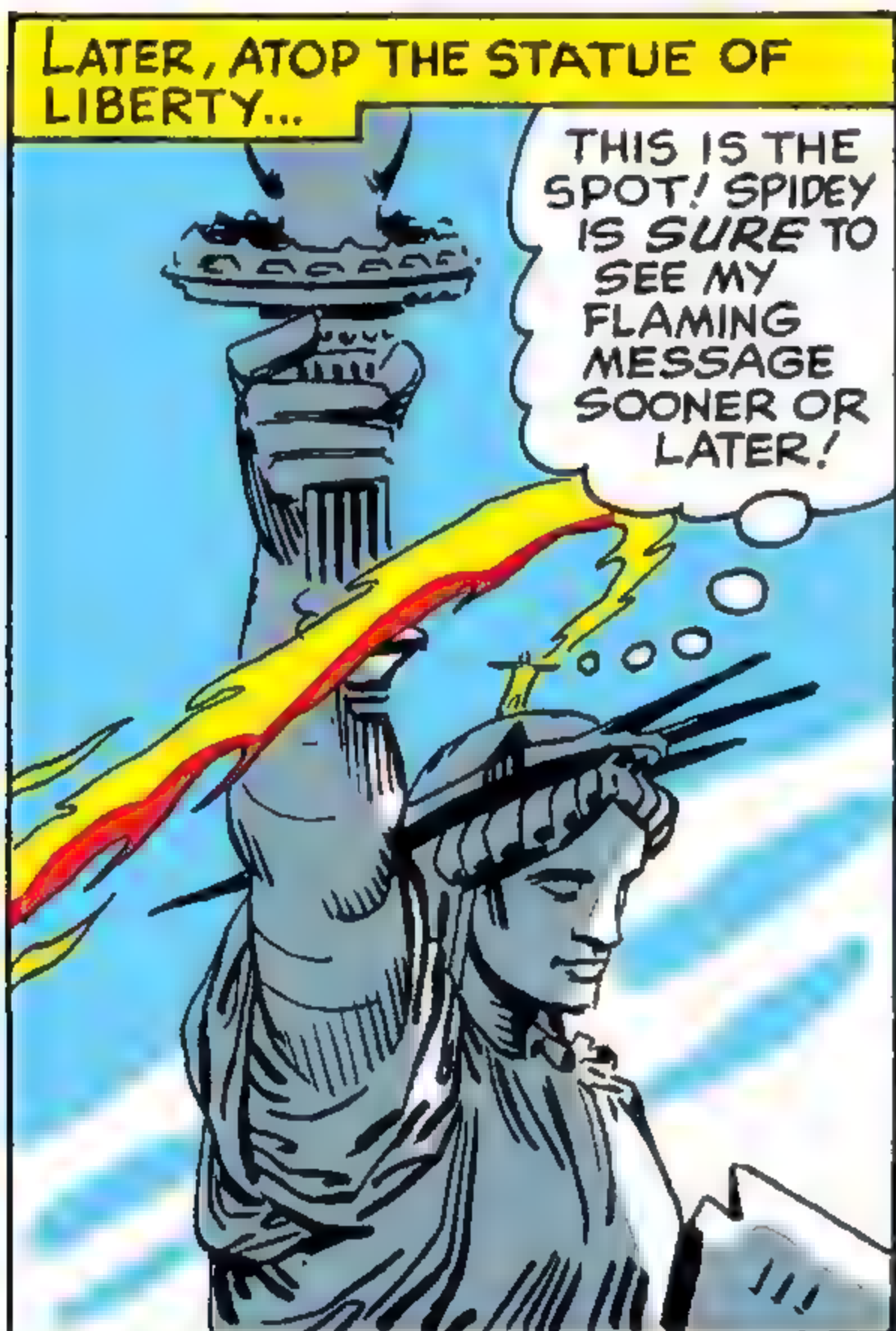
MINUTES LATER, A BLAZING MESSAGE APPEARS IN THE SKY ABOVE THE CITY...

SPIDER-MAN
MEET ME AT
OUR LAST
MEETING
PLACE...

EDITOR'S NOTE:
THE MEETING PLACE REFERRED TO BY THE TORCH WAS SHOWN IN STRANGE TALES ANNUAL #2, 1963



A MESSAGE! FROM THE HUMAN TORCH! BUT I CAN'T GO!... I DON'T DARE LEAVE AUNT MAY ALONE AGAIN!



LATER, ATOP THE STATUE OF LIBERTY...

THIS IS THE SPOT! SPIDEY IS SURE TO SEE MY FLAMING MESSAGE SOONER OR LATER!



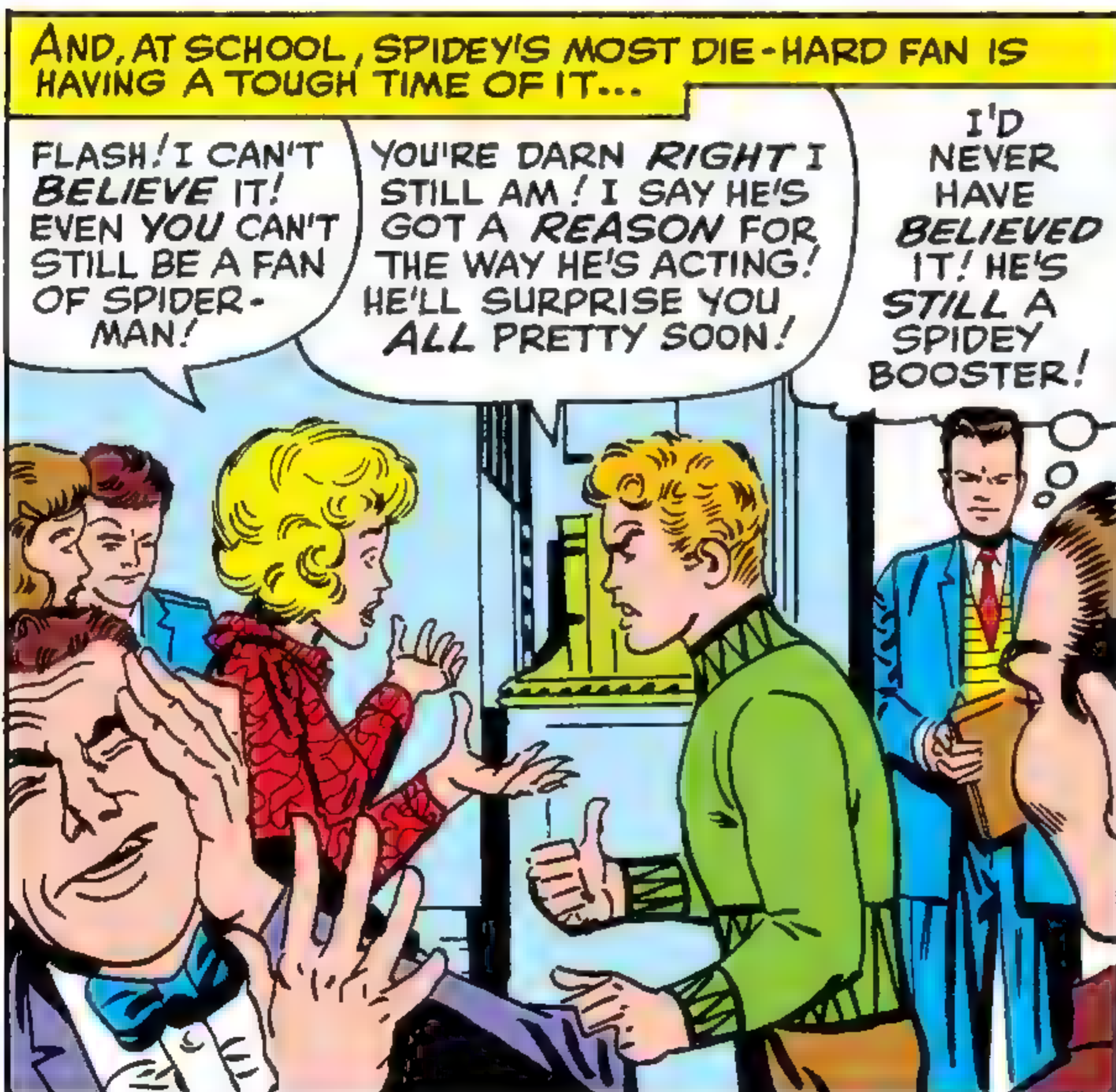
ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE HUMAN TORCH KEEPS HIS LONELY VIGIL, UNTIL DAWN BEGINS TO BREAK...

IF HE DIDN'T COME BY NOW, HE'S JUST NOT COMING!



BUT WHY?? EVEN IF HE DIDN'T SEE MY MESSAGE, HE MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT! IT WAS SURE TO BE MENTIONED IN THE PAPERS, OR ON RADIO AND T.V.!

WHY DIDN'T HE COME? HAS SOMETHING REALLY CHANGED HIM??

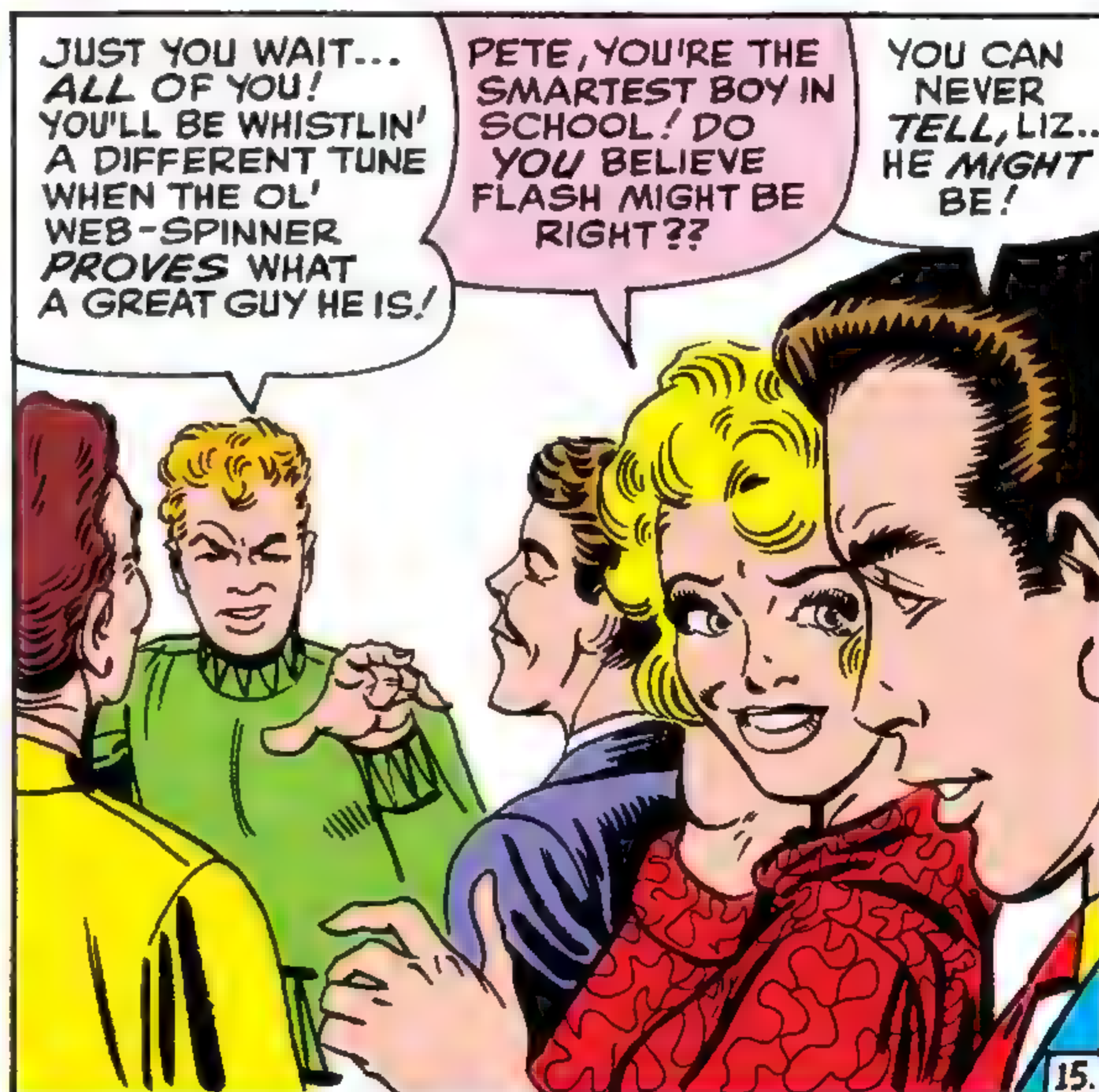


AND, AT SCHOOL, SPIDEY'S MOST DIE-HARD FAN IS HAVING A TOUGH TIME OF IT...

FLASH! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! EVEN YOU CAN'T STILL BE A FAN OF SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'RE DARN RIGHT I STILL AM! I SAY HE'S GOT A REASON FOR THE WAY HE'S ACTING! HE'LL SURPRISE YOU ALL PRETTY SOON!

I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT! HE'S STILL A SPIDEY BOOSTER!



JUST YOU WAIT... ALL OF YOU! YOU'LL BE WHISTLIN' A DIFFERENT TUNE WHEN THE OL' WEB-SPINNER PROVES WHAT A GREAT GUY HE IS!

PETE, YOU'RE THE SMARTEST BOY IN SCHOOL! DO YOU BELIEVE FLASH MIGHT BE RIGHT??

YOU CAN NEVER TELL, LIZ.. HE MIGHT BE!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

LIZ! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?? WHAT'S WRONG??

OH, PETE! I'M SO WORRIED!! IT'S THAT FOOLISH FLASH! I'M AFRAID HE'LL BE HURT!!

IN ORDER TO PROVE SPIDER-MAN IS STILL A HERO, HE PLANS TO DRESS IN A SPIDER-MAN COSTUME AND WALK THROUGH THE STREETS! HE FEELS SPIDER-MAN WILL RESCUE HIM IF HE GETS INTO TROUBLE!

THAT NUT! SPIDER-MAN HAS ENEMIES ALL OVER THE PLACE!

IT'S MY FAULT! I KEPT TEASING HIM ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D DO ANYTHING SO FOOL-HARDY!

MAYBE I CAN FIND HIM AND TALK HIM OUT OF IT! BUT I CAN'T LEAVE MY AUNT ALONE! WILL YOU STAY WITH HER, LIZ?

OF COURSE, PETEY!

AND SO...

I HOPE MY SPIDER SENSE CAN DETECT THAT WELL-MEANING KNUCKLEHEAD BEFORE ONE OF MY ARCH-FOES SEES HIM AND THINKS HE'S ME!

MEANTIME...

SO! THEY ALL THINK SPIDEY IS WASHED-UP, EH? I'LL PROVE HE'S AS BRAVE AS EVER!

I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO PREVENT A CRIME SOMEWHERE, AND OL' SPIDEY'LL GET CREDIT FOR IT! WOULDN'T THAT BE SOMETHING?

AND SURE ENOUGH, A SHORT TIME LATER...

HEY, LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

WHA...?? HOW'D HE FIND US??

CAR THIEVES! THEY THINK I'M THE REAL SPIDEY! THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE!

OKAY, TURN AROUND AND MARCH TO THE POLICE STATION IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DRAG YOU THERE!

WHAT'LL WE DO, ROCKY? THE COPS'LL THROW THE BOOK AT US!

IF I CAN PULL OFF THIS BLUFF, IT'LL BE THE GREATEST STUNT OF MY LIFE!

WE'RE THREE TO ONE! WHAT CAN WE LOSE? LET'S RUSH 'IM!





WELL, WELL! ROCKY ROBERTS AND HIS TWO LITTLE CAR-STEALING PARTNERS! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU BOYS!

SAY, IRV... LOOK WHO THEY WERE FIGHTING! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!...OR IS IT?? HE LOOKS KINDA POOPED OUT TO ME!



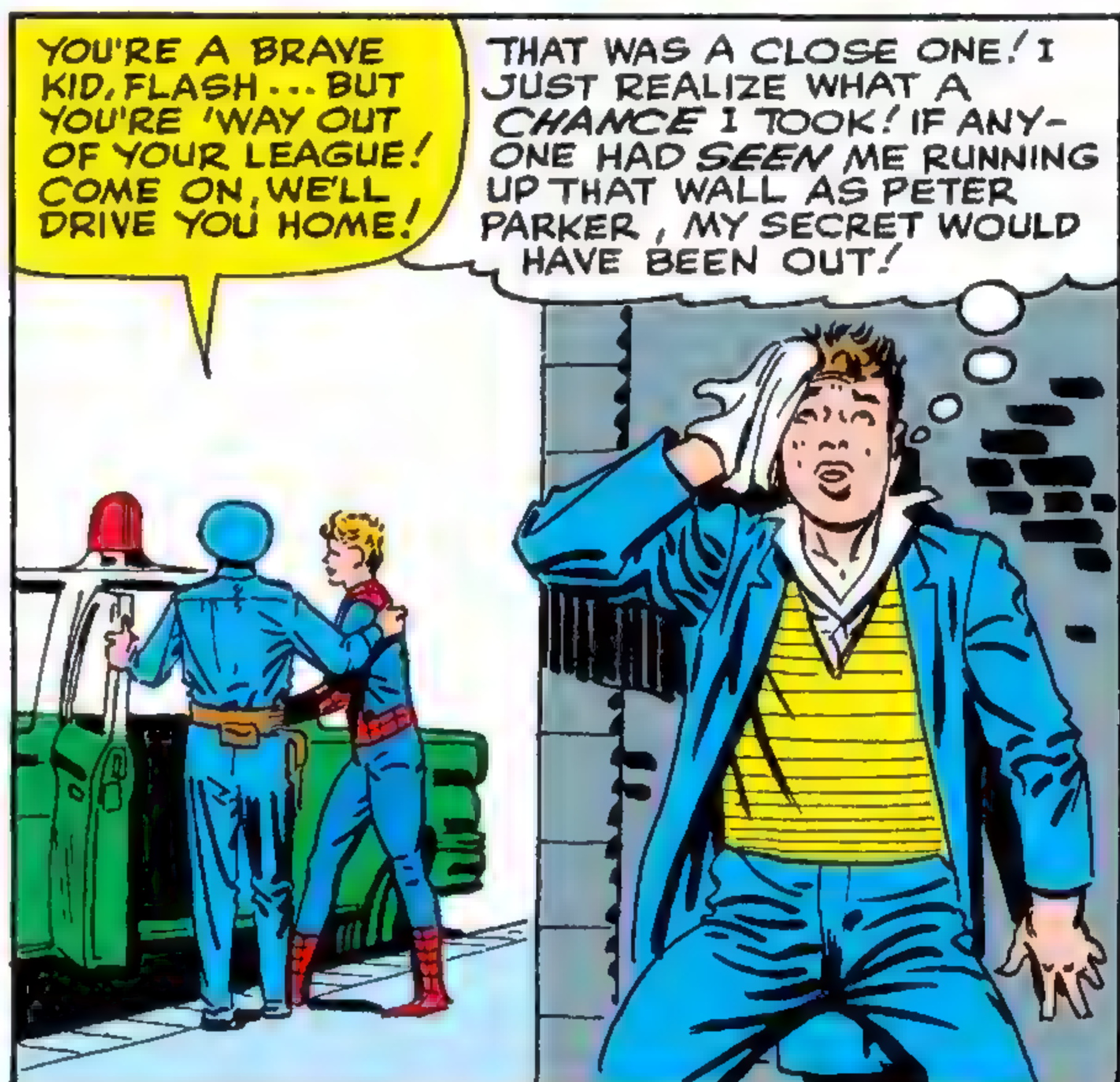
DID IT WORK?? DID SPIDEY COME AND SAVE ME?? WHAT HAPPENED?? WHERE ARE THE THREE CAR THIEVES??

IT'S FLASH THOMPSON! I'VE SEEN YOU PLAY ON THE SCHOOL FOOT-BALL TEAM!



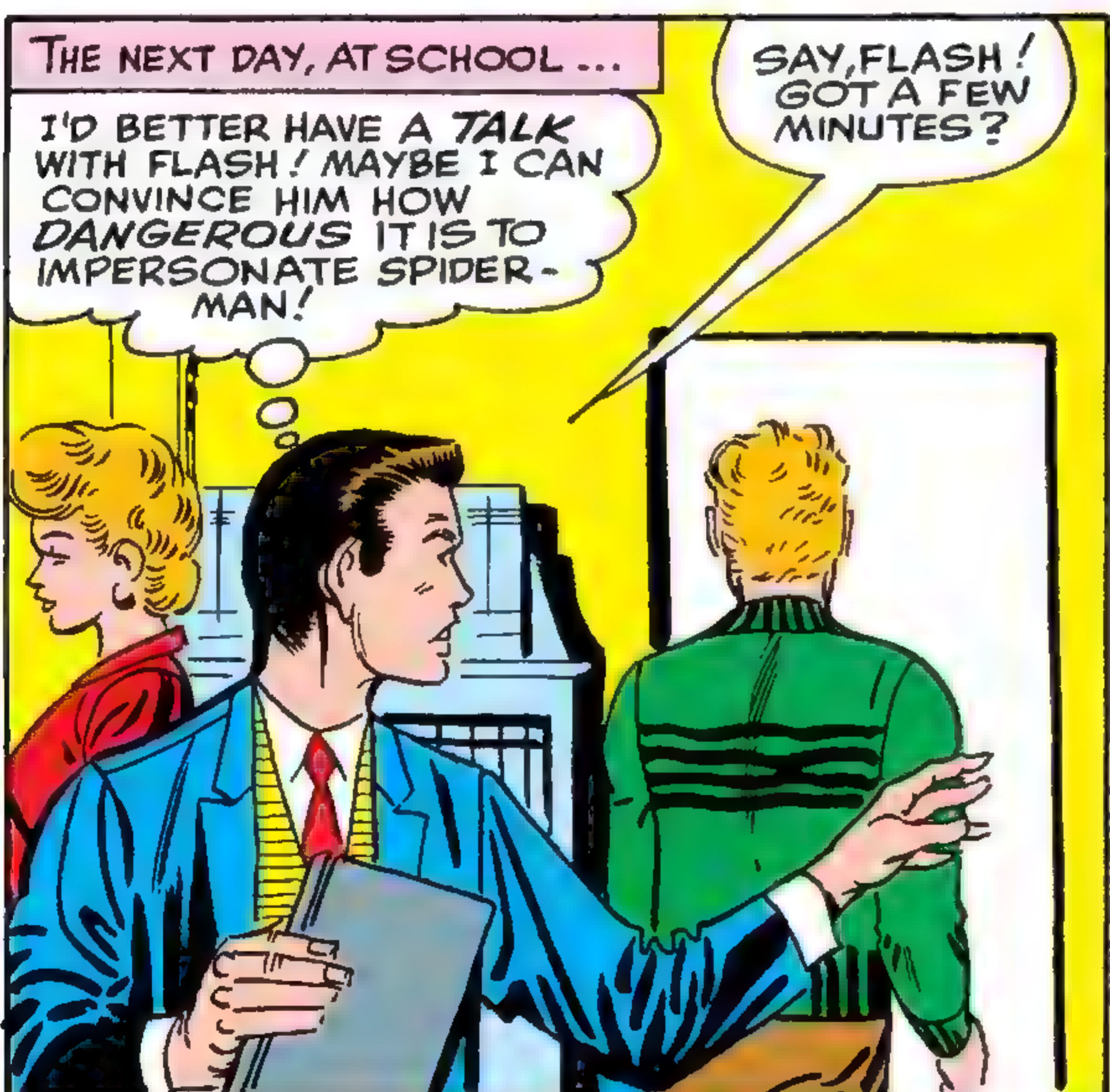
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THAT MONKEY SUIT, SON... BUT FROM NOW ON I'D ADVISE YOU TO LEAVE CRIME FIGHTING TO THE LAW!

I WANTED TO PROVE THAT THE REAL SPIDEY ISN'T A COWARD! I THOUGHT HE'D SHOW UP AND HELP ME!



YOU'RE A BRAVE KID, FLASH... BUT YOU'RE 'WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE! COME ON, WE'LL DRIVE YOU HOME!

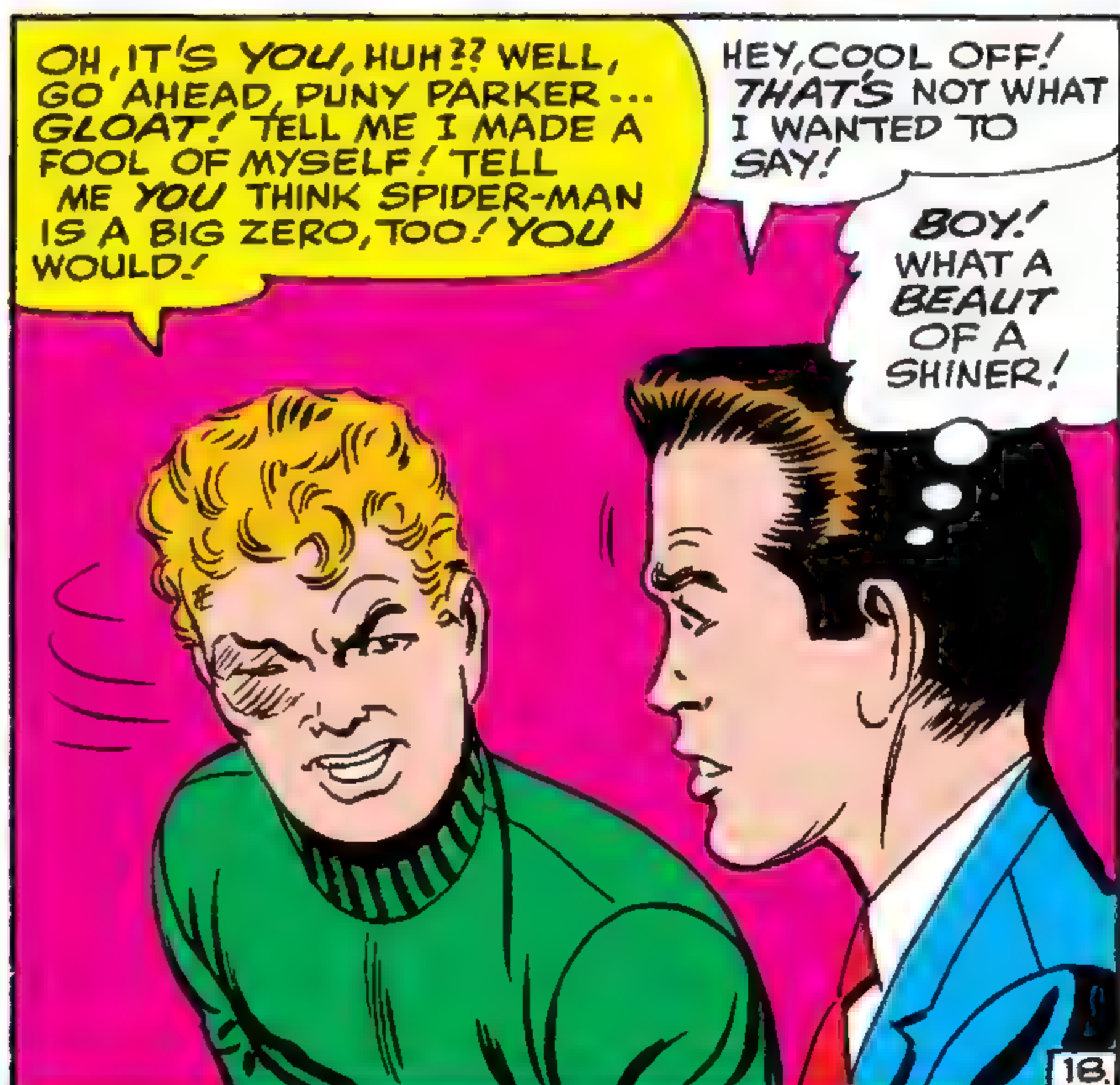
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! I JUST REALIZE WHAT A CHANCE I TOOK! IF ANY-ONE HAD SEEN ME RUNNING UP THAT WALL AS PETER PARKER, MY SECRET WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT!



THE NEXT DAY, AT SCHOOL ...

I'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH FLASH! MAYBE I CAN CONVINCE HIM HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO IMPERSONATE SPIDER-MAN!

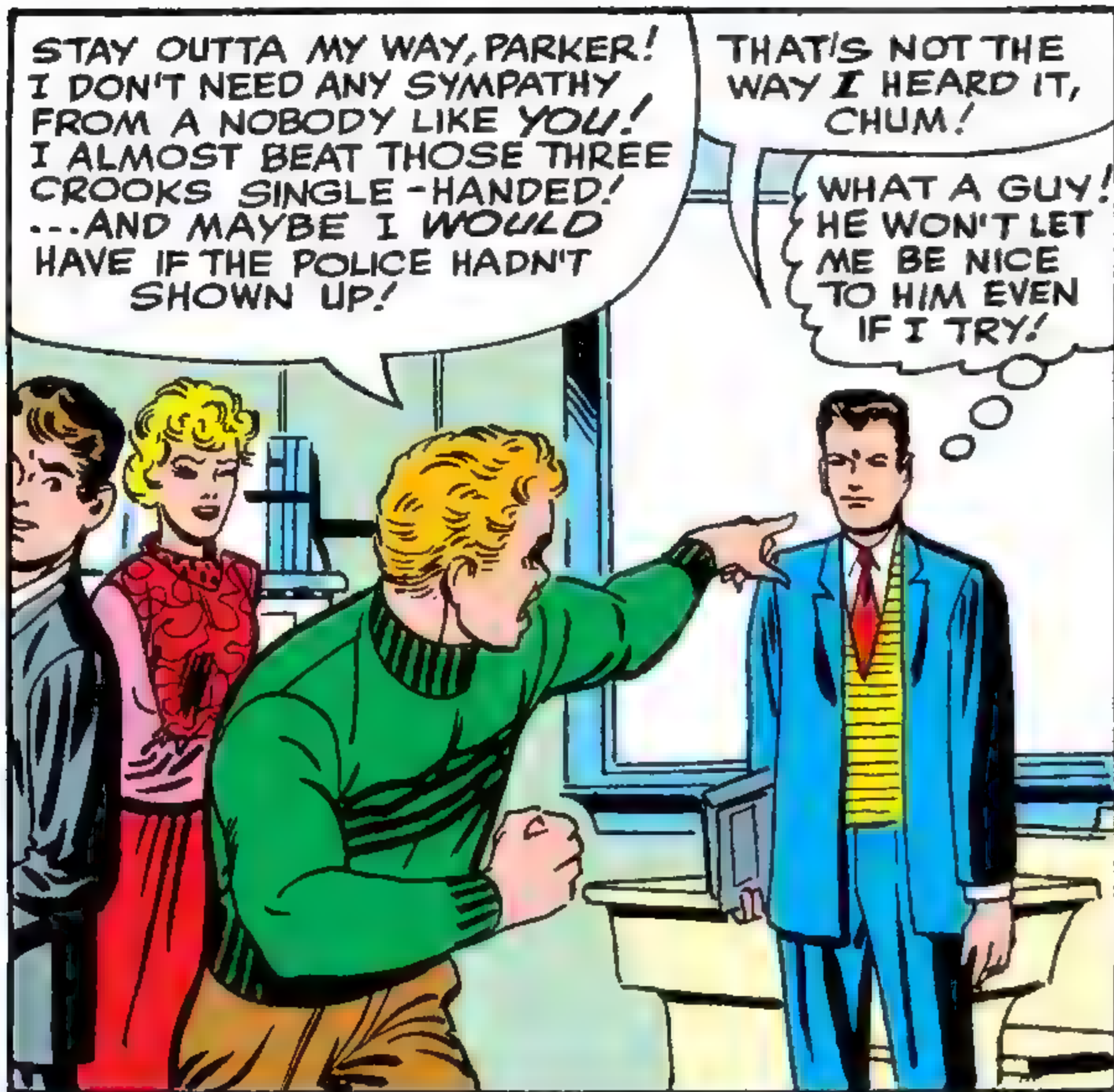
SAY, FLASH! GOT A FEW MINUTES?



OH, IT'S YOU, HUH?? WELL, GO AHEAD, PUNY PARKER... GLOAT! TELL ME I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF! TELL ME YOU THINK SPIDER-MAN IS A BIG ZERO, TOO! YOU WOULD!

HEY, COOL OFF! THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY!

BOY! WHAT A BEAUT OF A SHINER!



STAY OUTTA MY WAY, PARKER! I DON'T NEED ANY SYMPATHY FROM A NOBODY LIKE YOU! I ALMOST BEAT THOSE THREE CROOKS SINGLE-HANDED! ...AND MAYBE I WOULD HAVE IF THE POLICE HADN'T SHOWN UP!

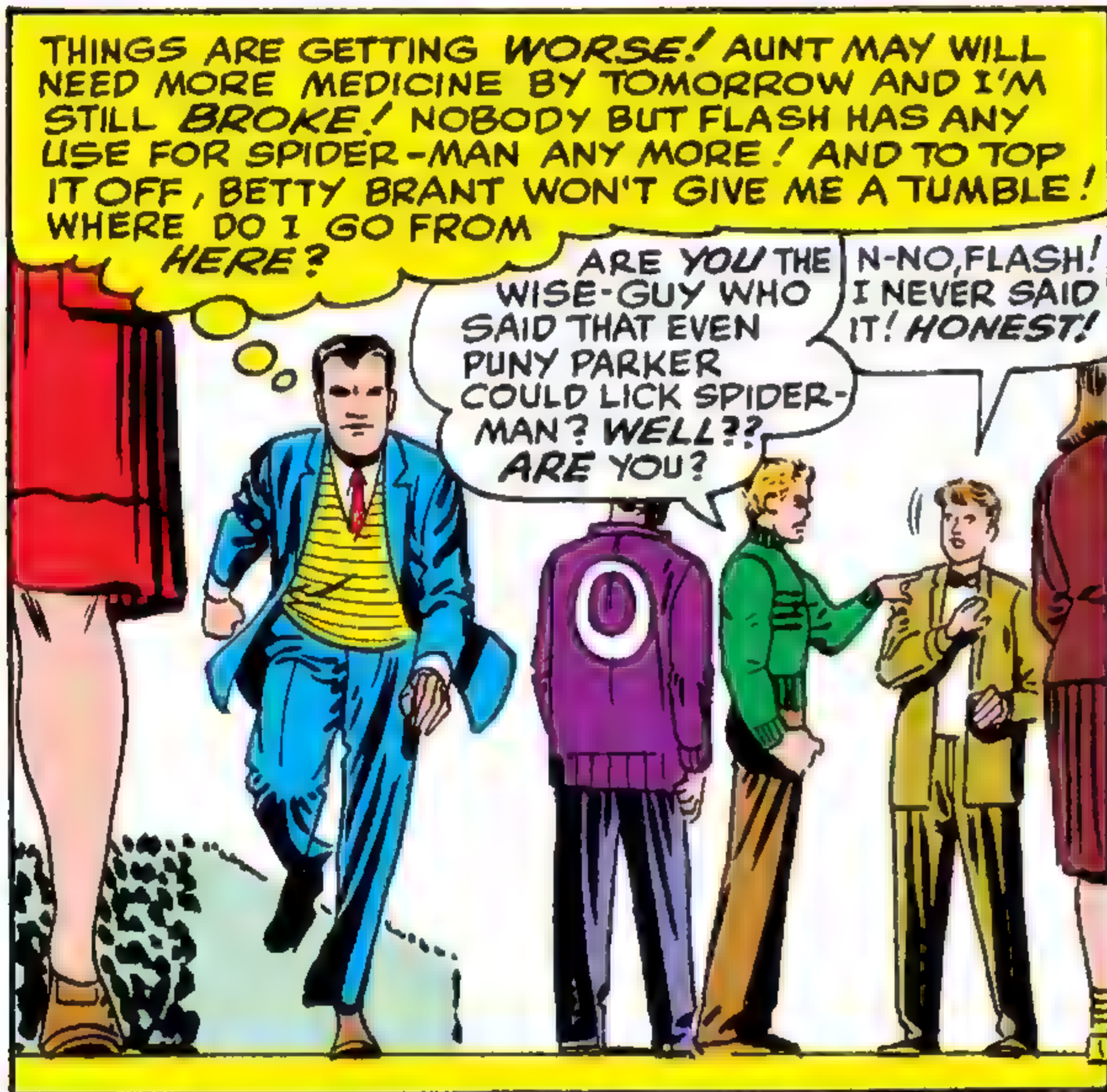
THAT'S NOT THE WAY I HEARD IT, CHUM!

WHAT A GUY! HE WON'T LET ME BE NICE TO HIM EVEN IF I TRY!



BETTER STAY AWAY FROM FLASH FOR A WHILE, PETEY! HE'S SENSITIVE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED! HE'S EVEN MAD AT ME, BECAUSE I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, LIZ! STAYING AWAY FROM FLASH IS THE EASIEST THING I CAN DO! I'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE!



THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE! AUNT MAY WILL NEED MORE MEDICINE BY TOMORROW AND I'M STILL BROKE! NOBODY BUT FLASH HAS ANY USE FOR SPIDER-MAN ANY MORE! AND TO TOP IT OFF, BETTY BRANT WON'T GIVE ME A TUMBLE! WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

ARE YOU THE WISE-GUY WHO SAID THAT EVEN PUNY PARKER COULD LICK SPIDER-MAN? WELL?? ARE YOU?

N-NO, FLASH! I NEVER SAID IT! HONEST!



POOR FLASH! HE HASN'T BEEN RIGHT ABOUT ANYTHING IN YEARS!! HOW I'D LIKE TO TELL HIM THAT...HEY!

DID YOU LIKE THE MOVIE, BETTY?

OH, YES! I JUST COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING!

THERE'S BETTY... WITH ANOTHER BOY!! LOOK HOW SHE'S HOLDING HIS ARM! AND HOW HAPPY THEY SEEM!!

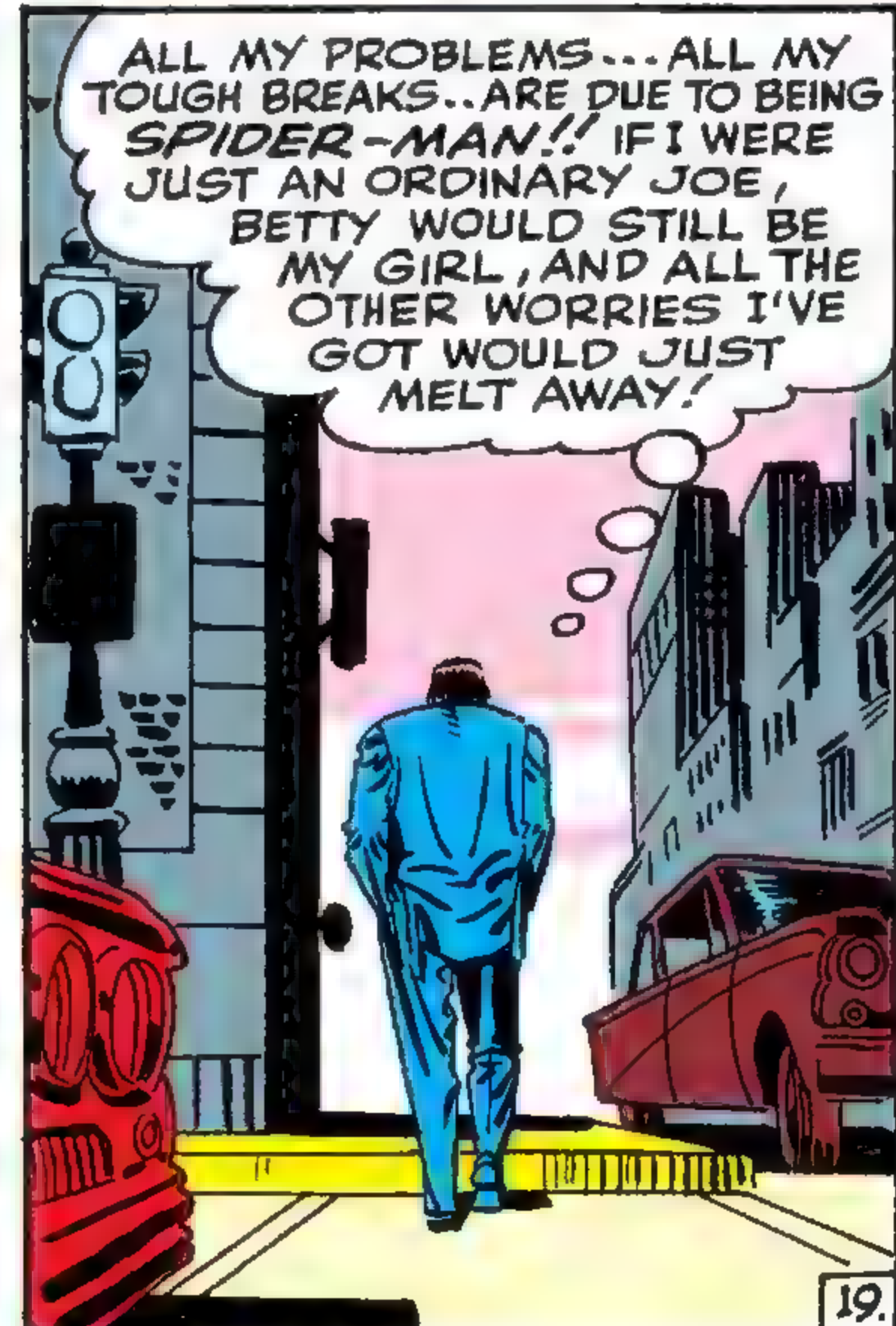


IT'S STILL EARLY! HOW ABOUT A SODA BEFORE I TAKE YOU HOME?

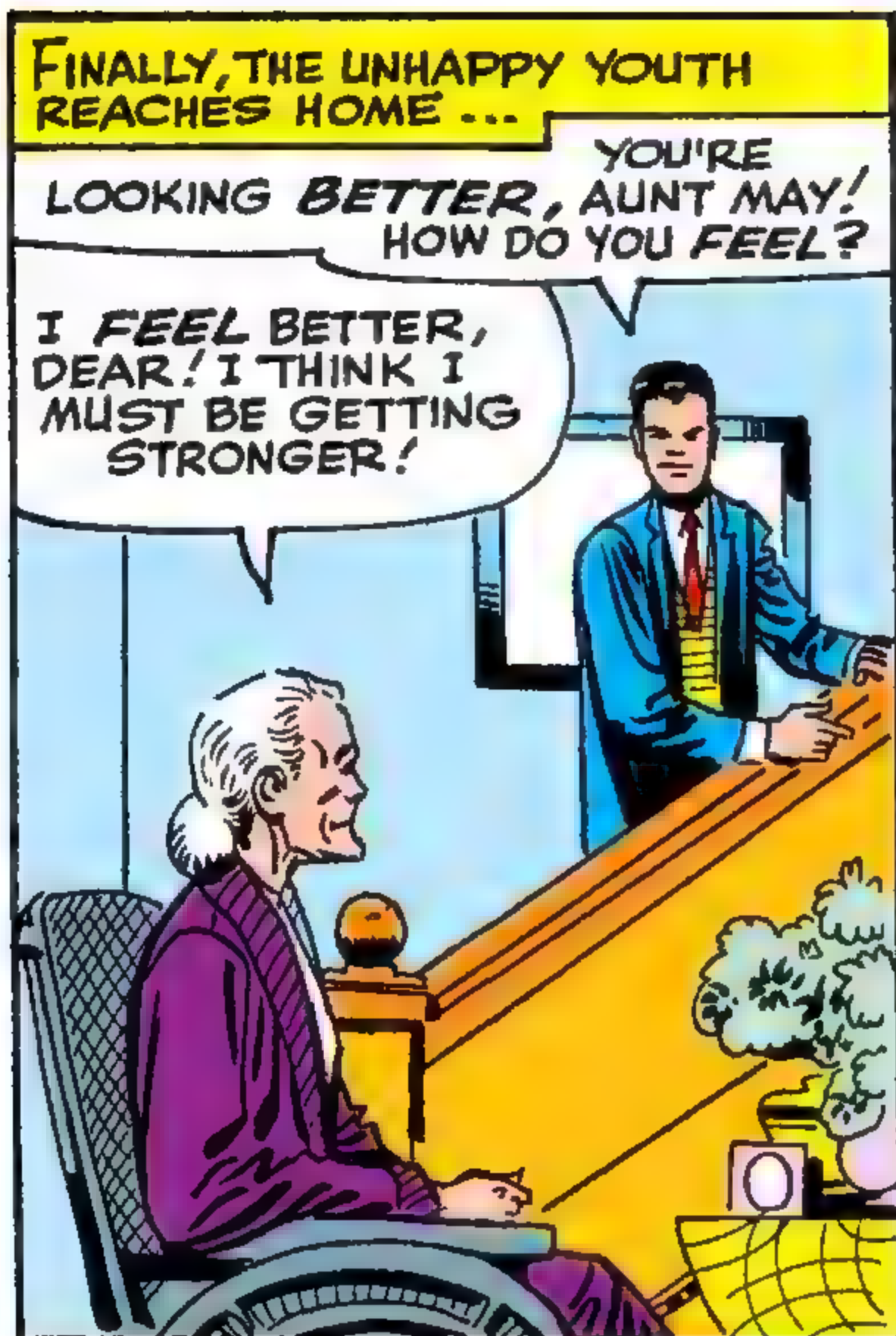
THAT'S THE BEST OFFER I'VE HAD IN WEEKS, KIND SIR!



FACE IT, BOY! YOU'VE LOST HER! HOW DID THIS ALL HAPPEN? EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE TUMBLING DOWN AROUND MY EARS!



ALL MY PROBLEMS... ALL MY TOUGH BREAKS... ARE DUE TO BEING SPIDER-MAN!! IF I WERE JUST AN ORDINARY JOE, BETTY WOULD STILL BE MY GIRL, AND ALL THE OTHER WORRIES I'VE GOT WOULD JUST MELT AWAY!





EVEN THOUGH I'M AN OLD WOMAN, I'M NOT A **QUITTER**! A PERSON NEEDS **GUMPTION**---THE WILL TO LIVE...TO FIGHT...

YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT ME SO MUCH, PETER DEAR! WE PARKERS ARE TOUGHER THAN PEOPLE THINK!

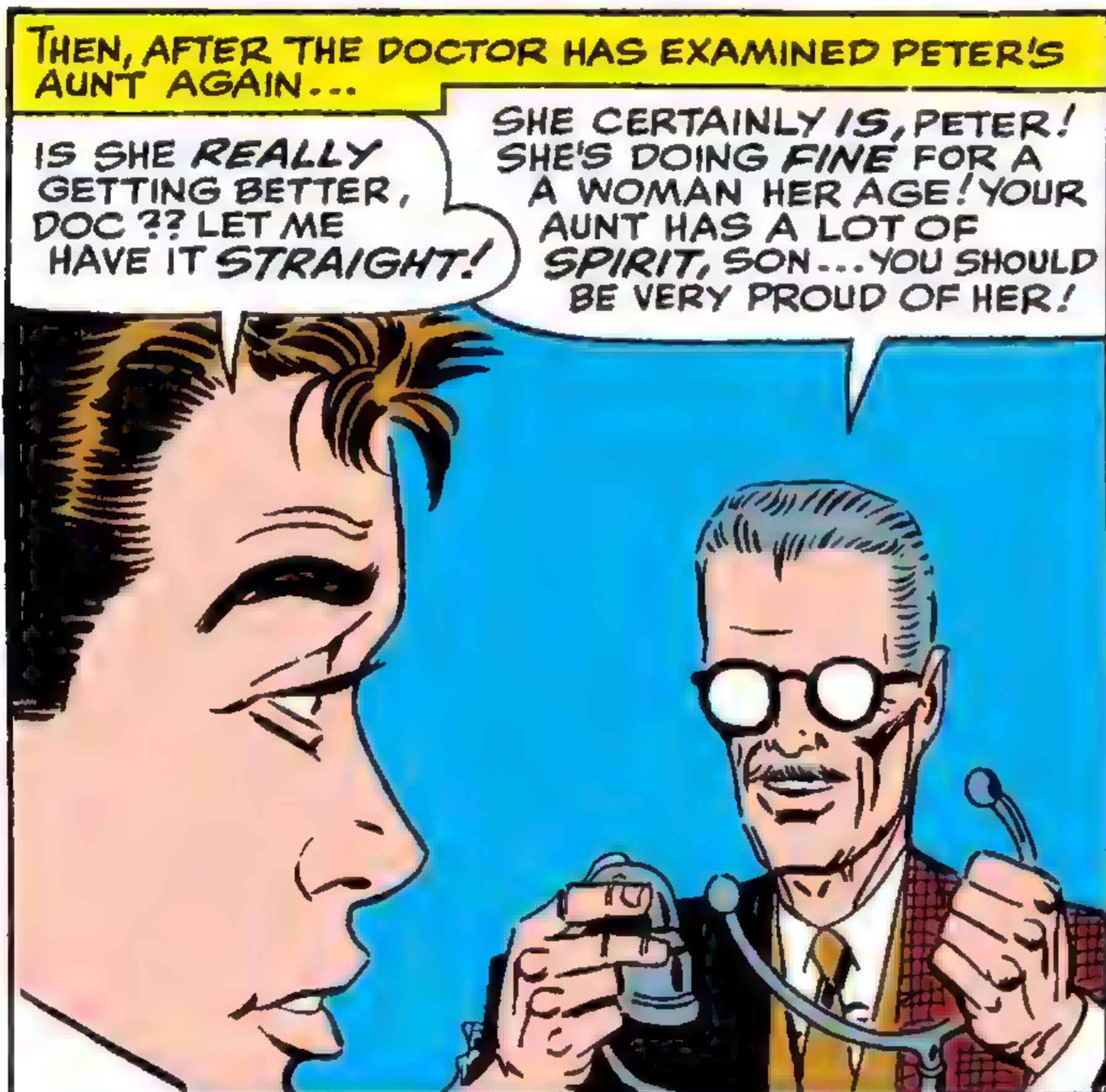


I HEARD THAT, YOUNG LADY, AND I COULDN'T AGREE MORE! YOU CERTAINLY SOUND **CHIPPER** TODAY!

I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER, DOCTOR! I FEEL LIKE A **SPRY** YOUNG SIXTY YEAR OLD!!

AND I'VE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU! YOU WON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY MORE **MEDICINE** FROM NOW ON!

THAT'S WONDERFUL! WE JUST USED UP THE LAST OF IT!!



THEN, AFTER THE DOCTOR HAS EXAMINED PETER'S AUNT AGAIN...

IS SHE REALLY GETTING BETTER, DOC ?? LET ME HAVE IT **STRAIGHT**!

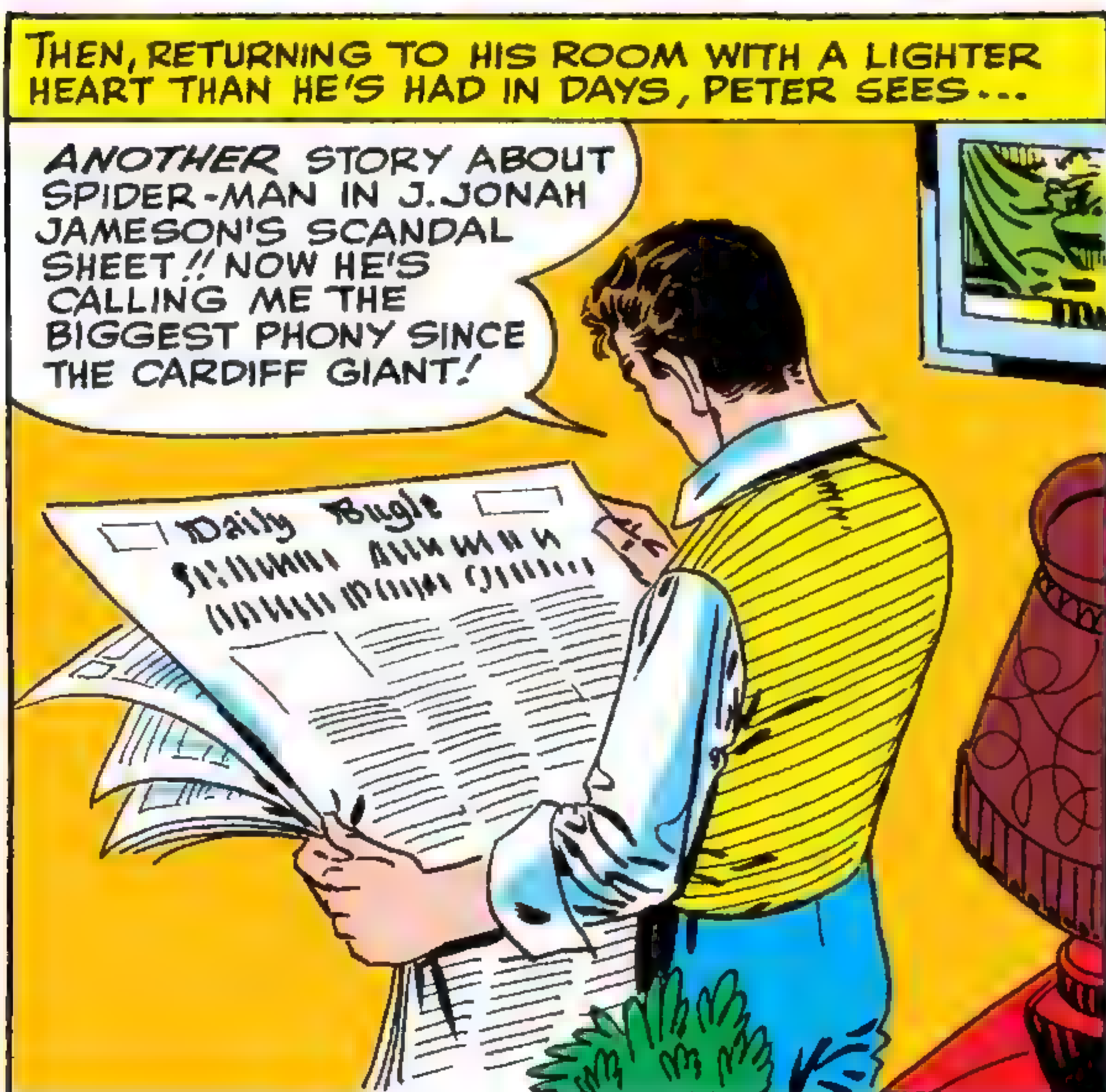
SHE CERTAINLY IS, PETER! SHE'S DOING **FINE** FOR A WOMAN HER AGE! YOUR AUNT HAS A LOT OF **SPIRIT**, SON...YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF HER!



AND SO...

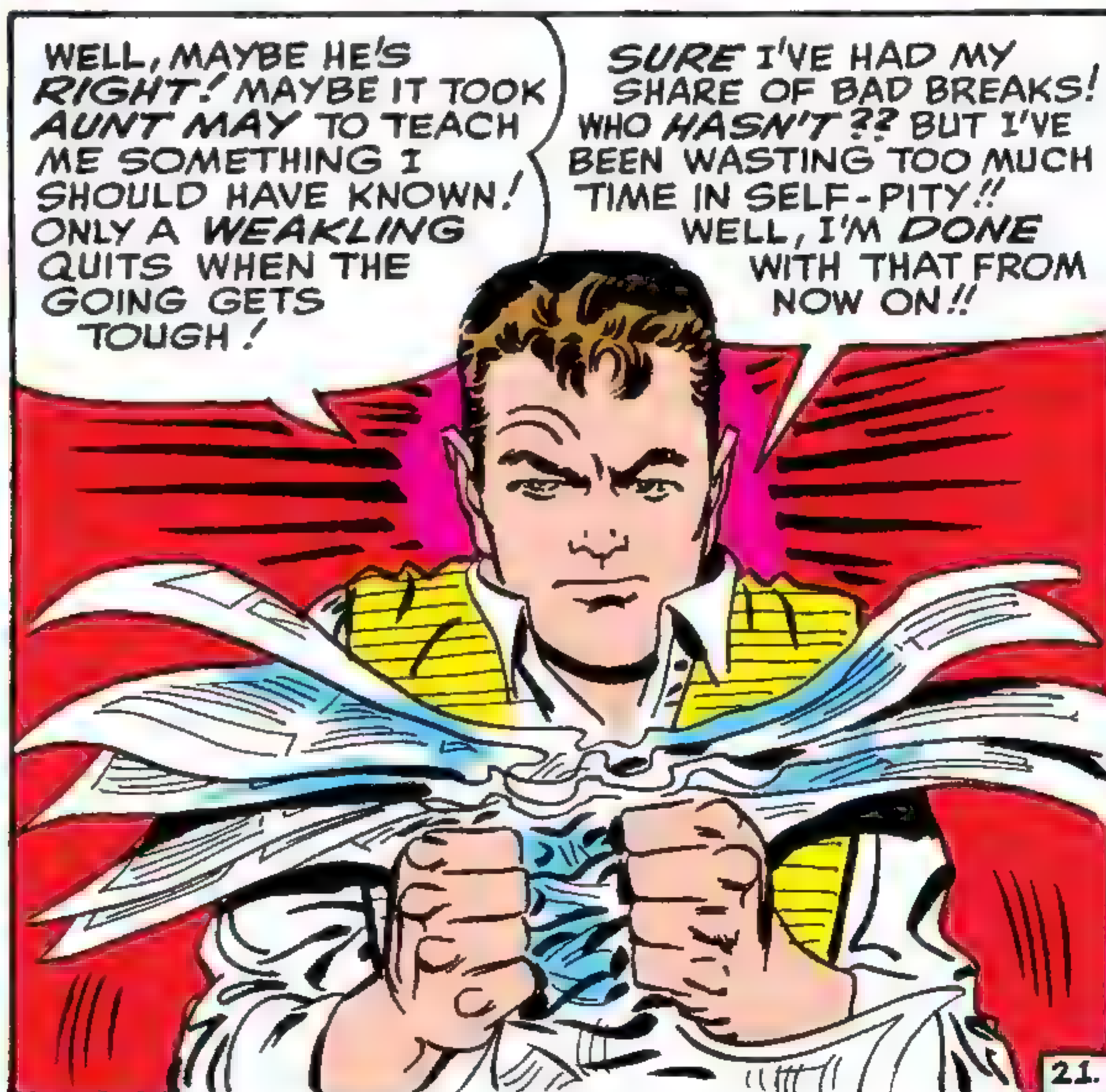
YOU NEEDN'T STAY WITH ME TONIGHT, PETER! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT ALONE! I WANT TO GET USED TO LOOKING AFTER MYSELF AGAIN!

GEE, I'M SURE GLAD TO HEAR YOU SOUNDING SO **CHIPPER** AT LAST, AUNT MAY!



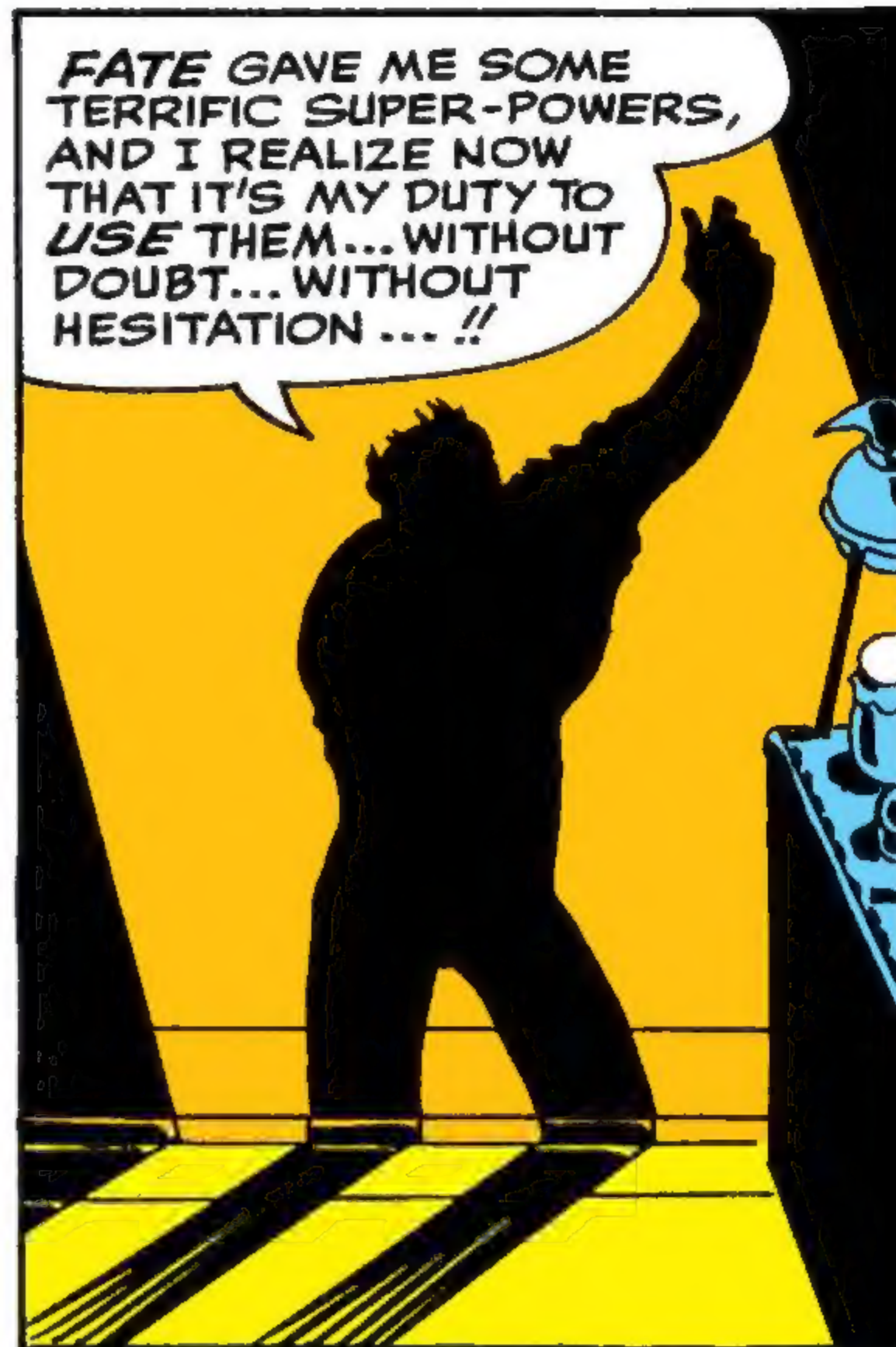
THEN, RETURNING TO HIS ROOM WITH A LIGHTER HEART THAN HE'S HAD IN DAYS, PETER SEES...

ANOTHER STORY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN IN J. JONAH JAMESON'S SCANDAL SHEET!! NOW HE'S CALLING ME THE BIGGEST PHONY SINCE THE CARDIFF GIANT!



WELL, MAYBE HE'S **RIGHT**! MAYBE IT TOOK AUNT MAY TO TEACH ME SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! ONLY A **WEAKLING** GOES WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH!

SURE I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF BAD BREAKS! WHO **HASN'T** ?? BUT I'VE BEEN WASTING TOO MUCH TIME IN SELF-PITY!! WELL, I'M **DONE** WITH THAT FROM NOW ON!!





SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #15 was the all around best Spider-Man story I have yet read. It was crammed with terrific ideas. Some of the reasons I liked it were: 1) a terrific new villain who is even greater than Dr. Octopus, 2) Spidey's dizzy spells after the first battle, 3) Spidey's troubles with J.J.J. and the girls, 4) the way the battle progressed from page 16 on. At the end of the story Kraven said, "... we shall return and continue our hunt for Spider-Man." I intend to hold him to his word, so when he returns makes sure the Chameleon tags along!

Chuck Robinson II, Rt. #1, Box 103
Charleston, W. Va.

We'll do our best, Chuck! You know us—we go all out for our readers—as long as they want the same things we want anyway!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I've just finished SPIDER-MAN #15 with that fugitive from a Tarzan movie, Kraven, and for a villain with no complex super-powers it turned out to be a darn good story! You even threw in the Chameleon for kicks which reminds me, I've a kick about how you had him appear for only a few seconds at a time and what a pushover he was! His admitting he was no match for Spider-Man was very unvillainlike—I thought all villains were conceited. Also, why did the Chameleon have to come back to Spidey's turf? He could have set up a crime wave somewhere else and eluded Spidey. Your letters pages are great—I get a kick out of the funny ones and highly original offerings!

Frank Brunner, 1395 Greene Ave.
Brooklyn 37, N.Y.

The only thing that bothers us, Frankie, is the fact that our fans usually think the funniest letters are the ones that we're dead serious about!

Dear Stan and Steve,

After seeing the Academy Awards on T.V. I decided to make my own Oscar awards and believe me it wasn't easy! Best Comic Cover—FF #25, Best Writer—Stan Lee for "The Search for Sub-Mariner," Best Artist—Joe Orlando for "The Evil Menace of Electro," Best Inking—Vince Colletta for "The Evil Menace of Electro," Best Lettering—Sam Rosen for "The Hulk Vs. the Thing" and Art Simek for "The Avengers Take Over!," Best Background—"The Infant Terrible," Best Short Story—"The Unreal," Best Story—"The Search for Sub-Mariner," Best Supporting Actress—Betty Brant for "Turning Point," Best Supporting Actor—The Sub-Mariner for "The Search for Sub-Mariner," Best Actress—Susan Storm for "The Search for Sub-Mariner," Best Actor—Thor for "The Return of Zarrko." There they are—how do you like them??

Greg Marlar, 481 Cedar
Ventura, Calif.

We'd have liked 'em better if Spidey had been mentioned! But maybe we're just prejudiced, Greg!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have wracked my brains for hours trying to find the answer to the Spider-Man question of the year—why are certain Spider-Man foes rated higher than others by the magazine readers? Eureka! At long last I believe I have solved the problem and I offer documented evidence to support my theory. The solution lies in the number of times a villain is presented in SPIDER-MAN. The villain does not necessarily have to have diabolical master plans, an arsenal of scientific gadgets, or a fiendish personality, although these are contributing factors and hold some weight. It is my hypothesis that the more you are exposed

to a particular criminal the more you begin to admire him and this is especially true in the case of the newer (and more impressionable) readers. This public opinion which changes constantly decides the fate of many a good Spider-Man foe. I have listed seven Spider-Man villains giving the number of times they have appeared. I leave it to you and my fellow readers to deliberate the wisdom of my statements and perhaps enter into a bit of friendly argument. (Dr. Octopus-3, the Enforcers-2, Sandman-1, Electro-1, Mysterio-1; Green Goblin-1.)

Benny Daily, 1010 Moro
Manhattan, Kansas

Benny boy, we're re-read your letter twice, and still can't figure out exactly what the point is—but our readers are probably sharper than we! Anyway, it was nice hearing from ya!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Oh brother—you guys are really stuck on yourselves aren't you? Why don't you just come off of your high horse for a minute and wake up. You seem to like to compare the Spider-Man to the Torch. Well, in my book the Torch could fry that Spider-Man and his webs to a frazzle before that crazy insect could say "Duh"! The best thing you can do to improve your magazine is to stop this conceited bit and you'll make a lot more friends.

Terry Larsen, Box 365
Calmar, Alberta, Canada

But what'll we do with 'em, Terry? We don't even have enough time for our enemies!

Dear Stan and Steve,

In SPIDER-MAN #13 a fan wrote and said that the Human Torch could "spatter Spider-Man all over New York." Well, in my opinion, if Spider-Man and the Human Torch ever met again (without interruptions which usually happen), the ending would be just the opposite! Spider-Man would rub Torch all over New York! Maybe if Spider-Man would use some of the frozen webbing that he used in STRANGE TALES ANNUAL #2, then the odds would be greatly in his favor. Why not have them battle again, this time to a decisive victory for one or the other? Don't have the FF help Torchy as usual!

Mark Taggart, 427 Quan Ave.
Kirkwood 22, Mo.

But as far as we know, Mark, they're not even mad at each other! Maybe we'll go you one better—we might get jolly Jack to tangle with snailin' Steve, with sneaky Stan acting as referee!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I thought you magnificent Marvel marvels had come up with just about everything that there was to come up with. You proved me wrong by a long shot! Aside from those completely original mighty monarchs of justice you use as your starring super-heroes you come up with a whole array of really fabulous supporting stars! First you hit us with the awesome majesty of Namor, ruler of the underwater depths, then come the new members of the Evil Mutants of X-Men fame, of which the new brother and sister team, Scarlet Witch and the streaking Quicksilver makes some of your all time best minor characters. After that you again top yourself with the intriguing Zemo and his murderous Masters of Evil, in The Avengers! Then, as though what you've already done isn't enough, you top everything you've ever done by creating Kraven the Hunter. His costume is the most colorful and refreshingly original of any I've yet seen and the concept behind him is superb. Kraven, the triumphant, savage, vicious,

CONTINUED...

Two-fisted fighter from Africa is one character I'm looking forward to seeing again and again. That battle with him and Spider-Man, my favorite of all the titanic costumed heroes, was another magnificent Marvel triumph. I'm sure Spider-Man is one super-hero who is going to last through the ages and will be known by the generations yet to come as THE super-hero of the past!

Ken Dixon, 674 Buttonwood Dr.
Springfield, Pa.

You're sure—and we're sure—and Spidey's sure—but, don't bother asking J. Jonah!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Wow! You've outdone yourselves in SPIDER-MAN #15. I was worried about Kraven the Hunter as he was so sure of himself, so sly, clever, strong and handsome. Wait a minute—on second thought he wasn't so handsome, but he was so fast-moving! When he threw those magnetized locks on Spider-Man I thought he was done for sure, then to put more trouble in his way, up pops the Chameleon, and if that isn't enough, Betty Brant is acting up again! Boy, that story was one good enough to keep anyone awake! I want to say the plot was great, Stan! Keep up the good work in this Marvel Age of Comics!

Todd Freeman, 12601 Speedway Overlook
East Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks, Todd—but do you hear sensitive Stevey muttering in the background? Something like: "So what was the artwork—chicken liver?"

Dear Stan and Steve,

The different thing about Spider-Man is that he's not tremendous—he's simply great. Now that Marvel is becoming bigger and bigger every day, it produces few "just great" magazines. Sometimes when a comic mag is made too sensational it falls flat on its face and when it doesn't, it leaves a reader speechless. A magazine like SPIDER-MAN eases the tension when a reader gets to thinking, "They just can't keep on coming out with these spectacular issues. What if they goof up the next one?" This is just my opinion and it probably doesn't apply to anyone except me but I just thought I'd let you know. Oh! The Special Announcements section always cracks me up. You don't brag one bit. You just get enthused and you can't wait for us readers to see the next issues. And one more thing—the Hulk should visit his jolly green huge cousin in the valley sometime. That'll be something when they have the Hulk on T.V. advertising frozen peas!

Clarke Owens, 785 Parklin Ave.
Sacramento, Calif.

They can have him, Clarke—if they can catch him!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I am a faithful follower of FF, SPIDER-MAN, AVENGERS, X-MEN, THOR and the other Marvel greats. So I won't waste time on useless comments such as "I think Marvel is the greatest, etc.!" Spider-Man has dropped to an all time low. Issue #12 was great with Dr. Octopus, #13 was good, #14 would have been crummy without the Hulk, and #15 was the flop! Crummy art, fair story—the only thing any good was the lettering and that could have been better. With the possible exception of issue #15 Steve Ditko's artwork is the best. Please don't switch him back to IRON MAN or any other mag.

Edward Willard, 345 Lansing Ave.
Troy, N.Y.

Hey, write to us again some time, Eddie—when you wake up on the right side of the bed! Cheee!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm writing to acknowledge an expression of gratitude to you and the MARVEL COMICS GROUP editors for your return to the super-hero era of comics. These same heroes are the men who not only revive such pleasant childhood memories, but also continue to afford me, thanks to you, many hours of reading enjoyment today.

William Rose, "Rose Record Room",
Radio Station KTAR, P.O. Box 711
Phoenix, Arizona

Glad you're pleased with our efforts, Bill. And if we ever get out to Arizona, KTAR will be the first station we tune in to!

Dear Stan and Steve,

In previous issues of your magazines you have asked for honest criticisms, so if you don't mind a reader's point of

view, here goes. First, your glamorous covers are the best on the market except that you put too many rave notices on them. Next, your color schemes are good except that your backgrounds are a bit dreary. My biggest complaint on inking is that the individual colors run outside their appointed spaces by as much as one-eighth of an inch in places. In this respect your competitors have you outclassed. Your lettering is superb. I don't know how you think up so many plots for so many of your mags! Next, and most important, is your success factor. What is your success factor? Well, I believe your success factor is the way you humanize your heroes and supporting characters. I'm through with my critiques and I hope you'll keep in mind that they are my opinions which I sent to you for the express purpose of improving your magazines. (Yes, it's possible, you know!) After all, we Marvel readers would rather save our 12¢ than switch!!

Lance Reidy, 77 Whitney St.
Auburn, Maine

We appreciate your comments, Lance! And we never object to readers finding fault with us—at least it means that someone's out there reading!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Okay, gang—FACE FRONT! We've got a lot to tell you, and we want your undivided attention! (How's THAT for an opener?)

—First of all, we guarantee that our next SPIDER-MAN (#19—entitled "Spidey Strikes Back!") will have more two-fisted action packed between its covers than you ever would have thought possible! Even Steve's pencil has skinned knuckles from drawing it!

—Next, we want to announce that beginning this month, every Marvel super-hero title will have a letters page in every issue! We realize that you fans want it—so now you've GOT it! As for us, we're getting writers' cramp just thinking about it!

—Now, let's see what's doing in our other Marvel mags, on sale now—

—The most exciting news, as usual, comes from the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, which features an unforgettable thriller entitled "Death of a Hero." And, as you know, we don't kid around in these stories. When we say "Death of a Hero" you know that someone's gonna die!

—Another big item is the birth of a new Marvel-type hero-villain. AVENGERS #9 is where you'll find him, and we have a hunch there'll be a lot of talk about him for months to come. His name is "Wonder Man," and take it from us, he lives up to that monicker!

—Our newest star, DAREDEVIL, has another solid hit with the appearance of "Killgrave, the Purple Man"! It's amazing how D.D. seems to have taken the comic reading world by storm! After only four appearances, his popularity is threatening to rival our ol' web-spinner himself!

—THOR #109 has a doozy, too! It stars our male Goldilocks battling the X-MEN'S most powerful enemy, Magneto! This one is sure to please everybody!

—And at long last, in answer to your avalanche of requests, two additional Marvel favorites have been given their own regular feature slots! CAPTAIN AMERICA will share top billing with IRON MAN in TALES OF SUSPENCE from now on, while THE INCREDIBLE HULK is the second co-feature (along with GIANT-MAN) in TALES TO ASTONISH! And there's even been a change in STRANGE TALES. You'll find THE THING teaming up with THE HUMAN TORCH in each ish—as well as the usual DR. STRANGE black magic thriller!

—And for you war fans, SGT. FURY is better than ever in a real earthy, gutsy, action-packed spectacular entitled: "The Crackdown of Capt. Flint!"

—So there you have it—the marvelous Marvel line-up for this month! (We didn't forget to mention our wild and wooly Westerns, or frankly frivolous female titles—it's just that we're running out of space!)

—Now, till we meet next ish, see if you can figure out what M.M.M.S. stands for? We'll tell you more about it later—and it'll be one of the biggest new developments to hit the merry Marvel bullpen in years!

—So remember, Spidey strikes back next issue, and if you're not here to enjoy the fireworks, you'll spoil our fun! It's never the same without you!

SPIDERMAN 18

To Rob Word —

Stan Lee

28.

